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TODAY

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Eleven pages, Section 2

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Grobbelaar cleared on final charge

Players must pay huge bill for their costs

By Stephen Farrell and Stewart Tendler

THREE footballers accused of *match rigging have* been left with legal bills totalling nearly £750,000 even though they were cleared of all charges after a nine-week retrial.

John Fashanu, the England striker turned television presenter and millionaire businessman who declined to utter a word to defend himself against a conspiracy charge throughout a two-year police investigation and two trials, faces a bill of *about* £650,000 after the trial judge told him that he had brought suspicion *on himself. He intends to* challenge the ruling.

The former Wimbledon *goalkeeper Hans Segers, also* cleared of conspiracy, also had his application for costs denied. *He had paid £65,000* towards his legal aid, but will not have it returned. Bruce Grobbelaar, who was cleared yesterday on the judge's direction after the jury failed to agree *on* whether he accepted £2,000 to throw a match, made no application for costs. He had paid £30,000 towards his legal aid and will forfeit that sum.

The court had been told that Mr Fashanu had received £250,000 from the Indonesian gambler Johannes Josef and his wife Elly between 1991 and 1994. The money was paid into three accounts in the names of his fiancée (now his wife), a cousin and a former agent.

Mr Fashanu's counsel, Trevor Burke, said that the refusal to award his costs undermined the "not guilty" verdict. "It is an indirect punishment if he is having to pay a fine, as it were, of *hundreds* of thousands of pounds to establish his innocence."

But Mr Justice McCullough said that the fact that Mr Fashanu *had received* very considerable sums of money from the Far East in other people's *names* could *only* have led the prosecution to suspect that these sums had been obtained nefariously.

Mr Fashanu had claimed that the money was from business dealings with Josef, but he had produced no evidence to support that. "Mr Fashanu's conduct brought suspicion on himself and misled the prosecution into thinking that the case against him was stronger than it was."

The judge also refused Mr *Segers's* application for costs, saying he had told "lie upon lie upon lie" to police about how he acquired £104,000 in a Swiss bank account.

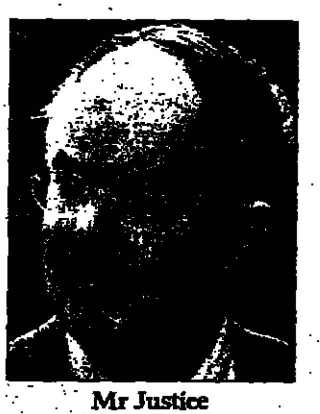
Mr Justice McCullogh made his rulings on costs shortly before the jury told him that there was no prospect of reaching even a majority verdict on the bribery charge against Mr Grobbelaar — who along with Mr Fashanu, Mr Segers and the businessman Heng Suan Lim had been cleared of conspiracy on Thursday. The prosecution said that it would offer no further evidence and the judge directed that a not guilty verdict be recorded.

After being formally discharged, *the former Liverpool* and Southampton goalkeeper nodded to his legal team, *buttoned his blazer and* walked from the dock at Winchester Crown Court. *Outside, he kissed his wife* Debbie and said: "To all the fans who have stood by me *through all this, thank you* very much indeed."

Mr Grobbelaar and Mr *Segers may still, however,* face FA disciplinary proceedings. And *The Sun*, whose initial *allegations* prompted the police investigation, said that it was fully prepared to defend *itself if Mr Grobbelaar* decided to continue his libel action against the newspaper.

Both Mr Grobbelaar and Mr Segers are believed to be keen to resume their careers, but first their cases will be considered by Sir John Smith, the former Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner who is reviewing the game's rules on betting and forecasting. Two *disciplinary* charges remain outstanding against Mr Grobbelaar — one of accepting a bribe and one of bringing the game into disrepute — and Sir John will recommend after reviewing the evidence from the two trials whether these should be reactivated.

If he concludes that there is a case to answer, Mr Segers might also face a disciplinary hearing at which the burden of proof would be lower than that required by the criminal courts.



Mr Justice McCullough

Paying the price, page 5
Leading article, page 21

A Bosnian woman greets Diana, Princess of Wales, when she visited Tuzla yesterday as part of her campaign against landmines

Princess leads gossips to minefield

From Damian Whitworth in Tuzla

DIANA, Princess of Wales, yesterday put the speculation about her private life behind her and flew to Bosnia to concentrate on her public role.

Relaxed and smiling, the most photographed woman in the world said nothing about recent photographs of her with Mohamed Al Fayed's son Dodi, and went to visit the victims of landmines.

Her office had said that officially her trip was a private one. But even if she had not helped to bring the issue of landmines on to the world stage herself, her private visits are never that.

As she flew in over Sarajevo in the billionaire George Soros's private jet she would have seen not only row upon row of ruined buildings but a crowd waiting on the runway to greet her. Among them were Ken Rutherford and his colleagues from the Landmine Survivors Trust, a handful of French peacekeeping troops and around 100 journalists.

She hopped from the plane and skipped across to meet Mr Rutherford, an American and himself a victim of a Somali landmine, whom she had met at a conference in London. Dressed casually in leggings, a denim shirt and navy blazer she greeted her hosts warmly.

The Princess was accompanied by two Scotland Yard detectives, her butler Paul Burrell and Lord Deedes, the former *Daily Telegraph* editor.

Maybe the Princess had had enough of photographers as *she appeared* not to notice them or their calls for her to pose as she was whisked away for the journey to Tuzla. Security for the two-day trip is tight. So tight in fact that the French officer in charge of security at the airport learned of her visit only when the press pack rolled up.

En route the Princess held up the traffic for ten minutes as she stopped to look down over a valley containing the town of Olovo where American money had rebuilt a monastery and two mosques.

On the outskirsts of Tuzla, which suffered some of the worst shelling, she called in at the ground floor flat of Franjo Kresic, 42, a Croat married to a Serb and who fought for the Bosnian Army. He had both legs blown off above the knee by a mine. The Princess stayed and talked to *him* for half an hour. Then she went on to meet more victims in Tuzla itself having changed into Armani jeans and discarding the blazer in the clammy heat. She ignored questions about her romantic life as, still beaming, she was greeted by the local Mayor.

Lord Deedes, who had been with her all day, said she was not even thinking of her private life. "She's in excellent form, totally self-possessed," he said.

"The Princess has a knack of putting her mind on what she is doing whatever the other distractions are. She has had practice at doing this. Her mind is totally on mines."

Mr Rutherford said that the visit had been arranged when he and his colleague Jerry White went to visit the Princess at Kensington Palace two weeks ago.

"She is the most renowned face in the world. For us to have her support is incredible. We are just honoured to have her here," he said.

Pound falls below FFr10

Sterling fell by 4.58 pfennigs to DM2.9249. Against the *French franc*, the pound moved down from FFr10.02 to FFr9.85. Abbey National *raised some mortgage rates to* 8.45 per cent..............Page 25

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Major finds voice on lecture circuit

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR is planning a brief but lucrative comeback on the world stage. The former Prime Minister, who has virtually disappeared on the political scene, will cut short his visit to the Tory Party conference *in October* to launch a career on the international lecture circuit.

Mr Major has been *signed* up by the Washington Speakers' Bureau, the agency which has Baroness Thatcher, Henry Kissinger and General Colin Powell on its books. It has arranged a week-long *series of engagements* in October in America. Details of the itinerary are being kept secret for security reasons.

Mr Major, whose salary was cut by more than half when he returned to the back benches, will be paid *in the* region of £32,000 for each speech and could earn more in a week than the £100,000 he was *paid* a year as Prime Minister.

But even overseas he will be haunted by his predecessor. Lady Thatcher, seven years after she fell from power, is still in most demand among *retired international* politicians. She commands about £45,000 for each hour-long speech on *international* affairs. A photograph with her can cost a further £600.

More speaking tours are being planned for Mr Major while Lady Thatcher, who has earned about £20 million since she left Downing Street, is booked until next July.

Mr Major will make only a fleeting appearance at the Tory conference in Brighton *which begins on October 7. The Times* has learnt that he will stay for about four hours before flying directly to the US with his wife, Norma, for his first speaking engagement.

It will be an emotional appearance for Mr Major. When Lady Thatcher appeared on the conference plat*form for the first time* after being ousted she was given an 11-minute standing ovation *which dwarfed the reception* for her successor. Mr Major can expect the roles to be reversed this time round.

But friends of his say that he is under no illusions about his staying power overseas. "He does not expect to be in demand as long as Lady Thatcher. He is a realist. But he wants to give it a try. He is *forging a new role.*"

Henry Stokes, Managing Editor of the *Commercial Appeal* newspaper, which has carried out surveys of the leading lights on the lecture circuit, said: "Lady Thatcher is *the brightest star*. The only one who can match her is Colin Powell. People don't *identify with John Major*. What is he doing these days?"

Nurses spared from beheading

The threat of beheading for two British nurses in Saudi Arabia receded after a court in Australia ruled that the brother of the victim had no legal right to call for the death penalty.

And Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, a brother of King Fahd, said Lucille McLauchlan and *Deborah Parry did* not deserve to be executed.....Page 3

Warne dashes England hopes

England, with six first-innings wickets standing, are 239 runs behind Australia after the second day of the fifth Test at Trent Bridge.

England battled spiritedly and hopes rose when they reached 106 without loss half an hour after tea, but then *they lost four wickets* for 35 runs, three of them to Shane Warne..................Page 42

Hop, skip, silver

Jonathan Edwards finished *second in the triple jump*, winning Britain's fourth silver medal of the world championships in Athens. The *winner* was *the* Cuban Yoelvis Quesada .... Page 40

Underwater rescues

In two separate underwater rescues a woman was saved from her car by a *yachtsman* in Southampton and a girl of seven survived 40 minutes in *a car submerged in a quarry* near Pontefract..........Page 3

Heat and floods divide country

By Rory Carroll

FREAKISH weather divided Britain in two yesterday with the hottest day of the year being reported in central *London* and toprrential downpours and floods in the West Country.

Holidaymakers *stranded in* heavy rain in the south west drove hundreds of miles to the *heatwave on the other side of* the country.

The record 31.5C (88.7F) — the hottest recorded temperature in the country since last June — could reach 32 (90F) this weekend, the Met Office said. Temperatures in Birmingham, Norwich and Manchester climbed to 27C (81F) *and* Glasgow *and* Belfast reached the mid-70s yesterday. Coastal resorts were cooler and less humid than many cities, with Brighton, East Sussex, seeing 23C (73F) and Southampton 26C (79F).

The threat of floods continued in parts of Devon and Cornwall, with flash floods forcing the evacuation of nearly 1,000 *people* from a campsite near Honiton, east Devon, which experienced 3ft deep *floods after 3in of rain fell* in 45 minutes.

The Royal Marines and the Women's Royal Voluntary Service provided evacuees with blankets and sleeping bags as mopping-up operations started in a number of towns and villages. Worst hit was Ottery St Mary, where firefighters had to rescue their own cars after the fire station was flooded. At the height of the flooding, the Environment Agency had alerts out on seven rivers, three of them red.

The hot spell, likely to end at the beginning of the week when thunder storms are *forcast to hit many parts of* England and Wales, proved too much for 800 Tyneside shipyard workers who downed tools in a lightning strike because their drinking water was not cold enough.

Employees of the Dutch-owned Swan Hunter yard walked out after rejecting a *management* offer of thousands of bottles of chilled mineral water, defying advice from their own GMB union officials. Work is unlikely to resume until Monday when chiller units are due to be fitted *to the water supply.*

In Dorset a Boxer dog died and another was treated for brain damage after their owner locked them in her car, one of several such incidents reported by the RSPCA.

Reports of better weather prompted some drenched holidaymakers in the south west *and West Country* to make trips of up to 300 miles to east coast resorts.

"It was chucking down where I was and I just drove

Continued on page 3, col 4

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Photo shows Princess kissing Dodi Fayed

Evidence of new romance could damage public standing, writes

Emma Wilkins

ALPHA

Dodi Fayed, left, with his father. He is said to be "very relaxed" about the publicity

THE 17-year relationship between Diana, Princess of Wales and her adoring public will enter its most testing phase tomorrow when photographs of her kissing Dodi Fayed, her holiday companion, are published in a Sunday newspaper.

The photographs, which have cost the *Sunday Mirror* about £250,000, are said to show the couple swimming in the sea, embracing and sunbathing on a yacht owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, Mr Fayed's father. In some pictures, Mr Fayed has his arms around the Princess's waist and in one she is shown kissing him.

The publication will be the first [illegible] the public has glir[illegible] Princess roman[illegible]ed with a man ot[illegible]er ex-husband. H[illegible]hip with Mr F[illegible] said to be her m[illegible]nce her divorce fr[illegible]e of Wales. [illegible]ffice declined to com[illegible] the friendship yes[illegible]he Princess and Mr [illegible] were said to be "very relaxed" about the recent disclosures.

The appearance of the Princess on Thursday night at Mr Fayed's Mayfair home for dinner, in full knowledge of the waiting reporters and photographers, was being taken as a sign of the seriousness of her affection for the millionaire playboy.

Publication of the photographs mark an important landmark in the Princess's life. If the shots live up to expectations, they will be the clearest evidence that she is enjoying a love affair since her own admission on Panorama that Captain James Hewitt was the object of her adoration. The Princess has also been linked with a succession of men including Will Carling, the former England rugby captain, the art dealer Oliver Hoare, and most recently the heart surgeon Hasnat Khan.

The newspaper deal was finalised yesterday after fierce competition from other tabloids including the *Mail on Sunday*, which is believed to have offered a higher sum after the contract with *the Sunday Mirror* had been drawn up. The *News of the World* offered a figure of around £100,000 after viewing a set of 50 pictures.

The photographs, taken by an Italian paparazzo called Mario Brenna, show the Princess and her companion during their five-day cruise around Sardinia on the upper deck of his father's £15 million motor yacht, the Jonikal.

Mr Fayed declined to comment on his relationship with the Princess when he left his home in Park Lane, Mayfair, yesterday afternoon. He is due to attend the opening game of the season today at Fulham Football Club, which his father aquired recently.

There were celebrations yesterday in the offices of the Sunday Mirror, which is expected to print 500,000 extra copies on Sunday after heavy investment in advertising today. The deal was brokered by Jason Fraser, a British photographer, who is acting as Mr Brenna's agent. His client looks set to become a millionaire from worldwide sales.

With two daily tabloid newspapers bidding for secondary rights to the photographs, sales in Britain alone could reach £500,000. Deals are believed to have been secured with *Paris Match* in France and *Bunte* magazine in Germany. There is also keen interest from magazines in Italy, Holland, America and Spain.

Phil Hall, editor of the *News of the World*, said he was not disappointed. "We didn't feel the photographs were worth any more than we offered. They were taken from 500 yards away. The only one which was good was a kiss picture in which you can't see Diana's face and the kiss is obscured by her head."

Hague goes public in search for new ideas to gain votes

By Nicholas Wood

WILLIAM HAGUE is planning to reach out beyond his party in an attempt to give the Tories a new sense of direction. The Conservative leader and his senior colleagues are to embark on a giant consultation exercise involving professional and business groups and the public before drawing up proposals for the next Tory manifesto.

The exercise will include focus groups of voters of the kind pioneered in Britain by Tony Blair. The aim is to win popular consent for a fresh burst of Tory radicalism. A detailed programme for the policy review, drawn up by the Shadow Chancellor Peter Lilley, has been passed to Mr Hague and will be discussed at an overnight meeting of the Shadow Cabinet near Bath in early September, then implemented after the party conference in October.

Mr Hague is expected to use his first speech to the conference as leader to spell out his blueprint for a fundamental rethink of Tory policy. Every area of policy will be examined by teams of shadow ministers working with independent experts. In a departure from past, non-Conservatives will be drawn into the exercise as the teams canvas the views of the general public and people working in areas such as health, education, the churches and business. The overall aim is said to be to rediscover the "sense of purpose" that characterised the Thatcher years but was lost under John Major.

The first phase of the consultation exercise will concentrate on identifying the big new problems that will face the country over the next 10 years. By drawing the public into the process, senior Tories hope to build popular support for radical change, especially in state services. Groups and individuals will be asked to identify the problems and challenges looming on the horizon. The second stage, unlikely to be begun until after the 1998 conference, will focus on devising specific policies to meet the nation's concerns. The Shadow Cabinet meeting will also be presented with the party's election post-mortem.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lecturer sacked for paedophile views

A psychology lecturer who publicly approved of paedophilia with children over 12, providing they were above average intelligence, has been sacked by the University of Edinburgh. Chris Brand, 54, was dismissed "with immediate effect" after an internal disciplinary tribunal found him guilty of gross misconduct.

He was suspended last November after he published an Internet newsletter questioning the paedophilia charges brought against Daniel Gajdusek, the Nobel prizewinner, in the United States. Mr Brand gained notoriety last year when he claimed whites were more intelligent than blacks.

Stone of Scone stays put

The Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone — the ancient symbol of Scottish nationhood on which the country's kings were crowned — is to stay in Edinburgh Castle despite pleas for it to be returned to its historic home at Scone Palace. Donald Dewar, Scottish Secretary, said consultation had shown a clear preference for the stone to be housed in Edinburgh Castle.

Spam quits Britain

A contract to make Spam is being switched from the Newforge food factory in Belle Vale, Liverpool, after 40 years. Hormel, the American firm that invented the product, said that it would be made in Denmark from next year. Spam's share of the canned-meat market has grown by about 11 per cent over the past three years and given employment to about 140 workers.

Holocaust denial Bill

Legislation to make it a criminal offence to deny the Holocaust is being considered by the Government. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said in a letter to the Jewish Board of Deputies that a Holocaust denial Bill might be proposed to counter neo-Nazi propaganda, even though it would be difficult to legislate. The move would bring Britain into line with other European countries.

Local Lawrence hearings

The Home Office inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence hopes to hold public hearings in south London near the scene of the killing. Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, the former High Court judge who is heading the investigation, said hearings would start later this year and he hoped they would be held in Greenwich. Mr Lawrence, 18, was murdered at a bus stop in Eltham in 1993.

Killer had stalked girls

The killer of Katerina Koneva, a 12-year-old from a refugee family murdered in her home in Hammersmith, west London, stalked other young girls in the same area, Scotland Yard said. It linked the killing with two earlier incidents, one the same day in May, and the other in February, in which girls were followed home by a man of Middle Eastern appearance. Both escaped attack.

Cash sought for tin mine

Investors are being sought to save the last tin mine in Britain, South Crofty in Cornwall, which is due to close in six months after losing £33 million in ten years. Stephen Gatley, the mine manager, said the shareholders would be happy to discuss the possibility of saving the mine, although as each week passed it would become increasingly difficult to put together a rescue plan.

Gasman hostage verdict

A man who held a gas fitter prisoner at knifepoint in his home because he was unhappy about work done on his central heating system was jailed for four years at the Old Bailey. Winston Prince, 36, of Clapham, south London, was convicted of falsely imprisoning William Carr, and assault, but cleared of making a threat to kill. Mr Carr, 34, had a knife held to his stomach during the 1½-hour ordeal.

Radio 1's hits miss

Radio 1's audience has dropped below ten million a week for the first time after losing 1.3 million listeners in a year. It had up to 18 million listeners when it began in the late Sixties. Radio 3 has 2.3 million listeners — less than half Classic FM's figures — while Radio 5 Live is up slightly at 4.9 million. Radio 2 is increasing its market share at 8.6 million a week, while Radio 4 has 8.2 million listeners.

Pastor's widow recovers

The wife of the murdered British pastor Michael Pollard was "doing fine" after undergoing surgery following a roadside attack by bandits in Hungary. The operation on Jo Pollard's broken jaw "went better than expected" at the hospital in Nyiregyhaza, her daughter Rebecca said. Initially doctors thought that Mrs Pollard, 55, of Shipley, near Bradford, would need her jaw wired together.

Praise be for technology

A computer-based electronic notice board was launched in Britain this week, giving churches the chance to dispose of prayer books, hymn books and notice sheets. The system will display the words of hymns, scripture and liturgy. It is likely to be popular among charismatic and evangelical churches because it frees worshippers to express their devotion with body and arm movements.

Suicide MP had accused colleague

By Shirley English

A LABOUR politician named in the suicide note of Gordon McMaster yesterday admitted that the former MP for Paisley South had previously accused him of spreading rumours he was gay.

Tommy Graham, MP for the neighbouring constituency of Renfrewshire West, disclosed yesterday that Mr McMaster had confronted him three years ago and accused him of starting a whispering campaign.

Speaking in the *Glasgow Evening Times*, Mr Graham said: "Personally I did not care whether he was gay or what. It didn't enter my thoughts. It's not my style. There were always a million rumours ... because the guy was a bachelor there was a lot of people who did a bit of kidding."

He said that Mr McMaster, who was found dead in his fume-filled car at his home in Johnstone, had accused him of calling him "a poof". Mr Graham replied: "I've never called you a poof in my life."

Mr Graham was named with Lord Dixon, the former Labour MP for Jarrow, who was Mr McMaster's boss in the Whips Office, in Mr McMaster's suicide note. A report has been prepared for the procurator fiscal. The Prime Minister has also ordered chief whip Nick Brown to carry out an investigation.

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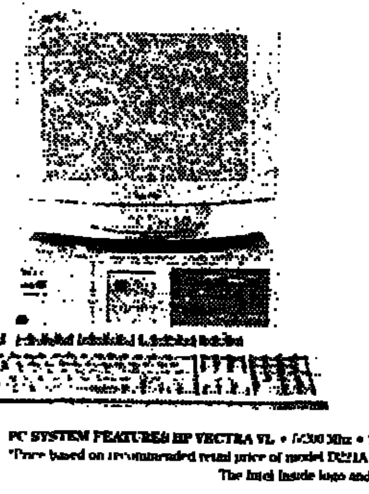

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Court eases nurses' fears of execution

Australian judge silences calls for revenge, report **Rachel Bridge** and **Bronwen Maddox**

THE threat of execution for two British nurses accused of murdering a colleague in Saudi Arabia receded last night after a court in Australia ruled that their alleged victim's brother had no legal right to call for the death penalty if they were convicted.

In a separate development, a leading member of the Saudi royal family declared that the two women *did not* deserve to be executed.

Lawyers for Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, who are accused of killing Yvonne Gilford, are due to make their final submissions tomorrow and a verdict is expected soon.

Under Saudi law the immediate family of a murder victim can call for the execution of the murderer, but only if their decision is unanimous. Frank Gilford, the dead woman's brother, from South Australia, has repeatedly called for the death penalty if the two nurses are found guilty and has said that his 84-year-old mother, Muriel, shared his view.

Yesterday, however, the Acting South Australian Supreme Court Justice Len King ruled that Mrs Gilford, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, was mentally incapable of deciding the nurses' fate. He placed a restraining order on Mr Gilford, barring him from repeating his call for execution.

The judge also ordered that a file on Mrs Gilford's mental condition be released to the nurses' lawyers within five days and that an Australian doctor be allowed to prepare a report on its contents for the Saudi courts.

Mrs Gilford lives in a nursing home in Adelaide and, according to Mr Gilford's wife, knows little of what is going on except that her daughter is dead.

Miss Parry, 38, and Miss McLauchlan, 31, are accused of murdering Miss Gilford in the King Fahd medical complex in Dhahran, an oil city in the east of Saudi Arabia, in December. Miss Gilford was found suffocated and stabbed in her room. She had also been bludgeoned with a hammer and robbed.

Michael Dark, representing the nurses, said: "We were given until Sunday to produce evidence showing that Mrs Gilford is not mentally competent. We asked Frank Gilford's lawyers if they would let us have any evidence to confirm that she is in a nursing home, but they refused. We didn't have much choice but to ask the courts in Australia to help us, which they have done."

Michael Boylan, Mr Gilford's lawyer, argued that the request on behalf of the nurses aimed to interfere in the Saudi proceedings and was an abuse of legal process. He said that Mr Gilford's comments had been made through his lawyers in Saudi Arabia and were therefore outside the jurisdiction of the Australian court.

After the ruling, Mr Boylan said: "One doesn't know what the effect will be as there has not even been a verdict in South Arabia yet."

McLauchlan, left, and Parry: verdicts this week

The Supreme Court ruling came on the same day as an interview with Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz, a brother of King Fahd, was published in the *Washington Times*. "I am telling you that in this case there will be no beheadings," Prince Talal said in the interview in Istanbul. "From my experience with Saudi law, the nurses do not deserve execution."

He attributed part of his argument to talks with the nurses' lawyer. "He feels they will have a just trial and that there will be no beheadings."

The interview is the first public statement by a member of the Saudi royal family about the outcome of the case. Prince Talal is close to King Fahd and is involved in international development programmes to help the kingdom, although he does not hold a government post.

Sailor rescues woman trapped in sunken car

Yachtsman gives driver oxygen from aqualung as he frees her after harbour plunge, reports **Tim Jones**

A WOMAN whose car plunged into a marina, trapping her 20 ft under water, was saved by a yachtsman who dived in with an aqualung and forced oxygen into her mouth as he freed her.

For more than three minutes, Stuart Bowen-Davies used the aqualung's mask to pass the oxygen between them as he struggled to release the woman from the car. Manjusta Chopra, 36, had been helping her father-in-law, Jiwan Chopra, to jump start his car when she started her own car, a Volvo, and it shot forward after she mistook the accelerator for the brake.

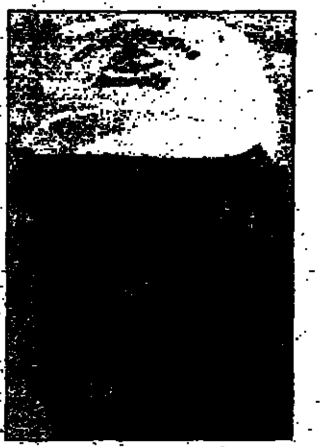
It crashed through handrails before falling 18 ft on to a wooden pontoon at the yacht marina at Ocean Village in Southampton. It bounced from the pontoon and crashed into the rear of a [illegible] speedboat and a motorcruiser before splashing into the water.

Mr Bowen-Davies, 37, who had been standing on his yacht, stripped down to his shorts and dived in.

He said: "I realised the driver must have knocked herself out when she hit the water. I was about 100 metres away but fortunately I am a very strong swimmer and reached the spot quickly. I free-dived on the car for a couple of minutes as it sank but I was getting nowhere."

Someone threw him some diving gear. "I couldn't really see anything and had to make my way to the car by touch alone. When I got down to the car, I went around to the driver's side but couldn't open the door because it had landed on that side."

"I then saw Mrs Chopra floating up by the roof above the back seat of the car. It took me about a minute and a half to locate her and and I was worried she would panic and pull the air mask off," he said. He managed to get her out through the window and took her up to the surface where, unconscious, she was given resuscitation by another man.



Bowen-Davies: freed Mrs Chopra from car

Mr Bowen-Davies, a South African who runs his yachting business from Southend, Essex, said: "I don't think I am a hero really. I was just lucky to be in the right place at the right time. After she was rescued I wouldn't say I was crying, but I was a bit emotional."

Later he returned to his 80 ft yacht, *Creighton's Naturally* and, with a group of paying businessmen, set off for a corporate day out at Cowes.

While the car was on the surface, two boat repairers, Rod Jenkins, 42, and his colleage, Jim Fry, 42, had dived in to try to free her. Mr Fry said: "We tried for about two minutes to get her to open the car door.

"It seemed like forever and all the time the car was slowly sinking."

He said that Mrs Chopra seemed unable to help herself. "She was frozen to the steering wheel. Her hands were clutching it and she would not let go. We tried to tell her to wind the window down but she would not listen."

Mrs Chopra, of Broadlands, Southampton, who has two sons, Bijay, 14 and Ashwin, 6, was taken to Southampton General Hospital where her condition was described as stable. The car was later recovered by police.

☐ A seven-year-old girl was in a critical condition last night after being trapped for 40 minutes in a submerged car. Firemen used their breathing apparatus as improvised aqualungs and weighted themselves with pieces of stone to reach the child under 20 ft of water in a disused quarry near Pontefract in west Yorkshire.

She was brought to the surface unconscious, but revived in an ambulance taking her to Pontefract Infirmary. The quarry, at Darrington, near Pontefract, known locally as Womersley Swimming Pool and the Blue Lagoon, is popular with swimmers and picnickers.

The car is believed to have rolled down an embankment and plunged down a drop of about four metres into the water as the child's mother drove home after spending an afternoon in the sun.

The Ocean Village marina, where Mrs Chopra's car sank 20 ft deep after crashing through railings

Matthew Malyon, aged four, is towered by puppets at the 'world's largest' Punch and Judy show in Eastbourne, East Sussex, yesterday

Weather

Continued from page 1

down this morning. I think I made the right choice, it's beautiful here," said Tony Daykin, 41, who spent five hours driving 250 miles from Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire to Great Yarmouth.

Alan Carr, tourism officer for Great Yarmouth Borough Council, said the town was filling up with refugee tourists. "We have had a lot of calls from people who have cancelled their holidays in the South West because the weather is so bad and want to come to Yarmouth.

Apart from isolated threats of heavy showers, the Met Office said the rest of Britain outside the south west would remain dry and sunny. "Inland parts of central and southern England will see the really high temperatures while temperatures along the coast will remain around the low 20s due to light sea breezes which will create gorgeous conditions," said a spokesman.

He said good weather coming from the Continent and remaining over central Britain was responsible for the surge in temperatures. But he stressed that there was still a threat of flash flooding in some areas.

Forecast, page 24

Neighbours angry as family of shot boy return to street

Judge warned Dillon's mother over drug deals, reports **Paul Wilkinson**

ANGRY neighbours have protested after the mother and stepfather of a five-year-old boy shot dead returned to their home in Bolton yesterday.

Residents in the close-knit community said the decision by John Bates and Jane Hull, his girlfriend, to return had put their families at risk.

Last night as a petition was launched calling for the couple to be moved, it emerged that a judge had warned Hull, 29, to keep her son Dillon away from drug dealing. She had appeared before Recorder Arthur Noble last year to admit allowing Bates, 28, to sell drugs from her previous home in Blackburn.

Putting her on probation for two years, Judge Noble said at Burnley Crown Court: "I hope you will bring your son up properly and make sure he doesn't have any such involvement. I hope you don't leave this building in any sense feeling that you have been let off."

The judge said she appeared to have been dominated by Bates but he would not jail her for the sake of her son. He hoped she would have nothing more to do with Bates until he had given up drug-taking. At an earlier hearing Bates was jailed for 21 months for dealing in heroin. He had told the court that Hull had turned a blind eye so he could fund his addiction to heroin.

It emerged that Codie, Dillon's baby brother, was born addicted to heroin and is still in hospital three weeks after his birth. Hull's father, Robert, said: "Codie was born addicted to drugs, that's why he's still in hospital. Jane is a registered heroin addict."

Brian Brown, 27, who lives close to where Dillon was killed and Bates was wounded on Wednesday, intends sending the petition to the police, council leaders and MPs. He said: "We want them out, they should never had been allowed to return here in the first place."

Dillon Hull: shot dead outside his home

Greater Manchester Police are convinced that Bates was targeted as part of a turf war over drug-dealing. He and Dillon were attacked as they walked to buy a bottle of pop at a local shop.

Detective Superintendent Peter Ellis, the head of the murder inquiry, said police had agreed to the couple's request to return home "after lots of consultation". The Greater Manchester Police Authority yesterday offered a £10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the gunman.

Mr Ellis said a post-mortem examination showed Dillon had died from a single shot that hit him an inch in front of his right ear. He said the gunman could have shot Bates earlier when he was on his own. Bates had told police that when he left his house to look for Dillon shortly before the shooting he saw the gunman.

☐ Police made one of the largest drugs seizures in Britain yesterday when they recovered 200 kg of heroin worth up to £100 million. The haul was found in a Slovenian-registered lorry in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire. Two men have been arrested.

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Déjà vu.

On the tight, twisting Knockhill circuit last weekend, it was business as usual for Audi, the reigning British Touring Car Champions. The two Audi A4 quattros finished first and second in both races, as well as the qualifying rounds. All this despite a 55kg weight penalty. Haven't we been here before?

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Cleared footballers will pay the price

Costs for the defendants in the 'match fixing' trial vary from £650,000 for Fashanu to £30,000 for Grobbelaar,

say **Stephen Farrell & Lin Jenkins**

THEY may all be innocent before the law, but the four defendants in the "match-fixing" trial are far from equal in financial terms. John Fashanu, who received no legal aid, is worth more than the other three defendants put together, with several millions to spare.

Fashanu once described himself as "35 per cent footballer, 65 per cent businessman" and has an estimated fortune of £6 million earned from football, television, property and public relations.

He was sent to a Barnardo's home by his Nigerian parents as a child and worked as a builder before starting his professional footballing career as a £17.50-a-week apprentice at Norwich City. Quickly moving to Lincoln, Millwall and then Wimbledon, by 1993 he was earning £1.3 million a year. It included £5,000 a week from Wimbledon, where he was on a bonus of £2,500 for every goal. His *Gladiators* job alone earned him £100,000.

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He joined Aston Villa for £1.35 million in 1994, receiving a £200,000 fee, and when a knee ligament injury ended his career two years ago he received a £500,000 insurance payout.

For the two trials, Fashanu engaged one counsel, Trevor Burke, and the high-profile showbusiness solicitor, Henri Brandman. Mr Burke told the court that although defence costs were kept to an "absolute minimum", the case had been "a very considerable financial strain" on his client. Mr Burke is estimated to have cost Fashanu £200,000 and Mr Brandman £450,000.

The loss of his column in *The Sun* newspaper when the allegations first broke, and of his *Gladiators* job when the case went to retrial, together cost him £250,000. He was forced to sell his £300,000, seven-bed penthouse flat above his Fash Enterprises office in St John's Wood, north London.

The judge said Fashanu had brought suspicion on himself by paying money from the Far East into three bank accounts held in different names. The court was told he received £250,000 between 1991 and 1994 from Johannes Josef, an Indonesian multi-millionaire, and his wife Elly. The money was paid into accounts under the names Melissa Kassa-Mapsi, his then fiancée, Miss Aloo, a cousin, and Buckle, a former business agent who knew nothing of the arrangement.

The other three defendants all received full or partial legal aid. Grobbelaar, 39, had to wait a day longer than his co-accused to walk free from court after the jury failed to reach a verdict on a final charge against him. He lives near Guildford in Surrey with his wife, Debbie, and daughters, Tahli, 12, and Olivia, 9. He earned £160,000 a year in his last four seasons at Liverpool, investing part of the money in the safari business project with Chris Vincent. *Last night he refused to discuss his financial affairs but said he intended to continue in* football and had received *three calls from interested* clubs in the last two days.

Legal experts estimate he will have to pay more than £30,000 towards the cost of his team of barristers and solicitors, who had worked on the case since his arrest in March 1995. He also faces additional expenses after threatening legal action against *The Sun*.

Hans Segers, 35, played for six years at Wimbledon, where he earned £80,000 a year until his final season, when his pay was increased to £130,000. He later moved to Wolverhampton Wanderers.

He is married with two children and lives in Fleet, Hampshire. Despite being granted partial legal aid, he faces a bill of £65,000. He is considering an appeal against the judge's refusal to pay his costs. He said: "It was a big blow but the main thing is I am free. To appeal would involve further costs."

Police found £104,000 in a Swiss bank account which they claimed was the proceeds of match-fixing. Segers at first claimed it was the proceeds of crime in his youth, and later said he had been paid for forecasting the outcome of matches. Mr Justice McCullough said that Segers had also brought suspicion on himself by telling "lie upon lie upon lie" to police.

Heng Suan Lim, 32, lives in north London with his wife Cora, 31. He earned £12,000 a year as an accounts assistant and was on full legal aid. He made no application for costs and the court was told he had financial backers.

ASHLEY COOMBES

Bruce Grobbelaar is welcomed by his wife, Debbie, yesterday after being found not guilty on a final charge

John Fashanu and his wife, Melissa, left, outside Winchester Crown Court after the verdicts were announced, together with Hans Segers and his wife, Astrid

Loss of costs is case of history repeating itself

By Carol Midgley

FOR Henri Brandman it is the second time this year that he has secured the acquittal of a celebrity defendant only for the judge to deny them their legal costs.

In May he represented the boxer Nigel Benn, who was cleared after an eight-day trial of smashing a glass into the face of his former best friend, Ray Sullivan.

But Judge Derek Inman declined to award the £50,000 costs, telling Mr Benn's legal team: "In my view he did bring the prosecution on himself." Mr Benn had also been defended by the barrister Trevor Burke, who represented John Fashanu.

Yesterday Mr Justice Charles McCullough, QC, declined to award Mr Fashanu and Hans Segers their costs. He said: "It seems clear that Mr Fashanu's own conduct brought suspicion on himself and led the prosecution into thinking that the case against him was stronger than it was."

There are several precedents in recent legal history where, even after a defendant has been acquitted, the judge has used his discretion. In 1994 Gida Ratner, the widow of a Harley Street doctor, was found not guilty of using a patient's credit card and forging cheques. However, Judge Christopher Hordern criticised her conduct and refused to award costs after she claimed she had seen her late husband taking cocaine and morphine with the patient in question.

Judge Hordern told her: "Those who choose to say absolutely nothing and reserve a very surprise defence until the last moment do not in my view deserve costs."

In 1986 a dating agency manager, Scott Fenton-Palmer, was acquitted of raping a 26-year-old woman. But Judge John Gower, QC, refused him his defence costs, saying that he had "considerably strengthened the case against himself". In 1993 Fenton-Palmer was convicted of another rape and jailed for ten years.

Yesterday Geoffrey Robertson, QC, said: "Costs normally follow the event. However, the judge has the discretion to deprive a successful defendant of costs, for example if he thinks that the defendant has brought suspicion upon himself."

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Pass-as-you-go papers lift A-level success rate

More candidates achieving required grades will worsen the scramble for college places, writes **David Charter**

A-LEVEL pass rates are expected to rise for the 16th successive year, fuelled by a doubling of modular "pass-as-you-go" papers taken by the 750,000 candidates.

Next week's expected rise, taking the pass rate up by about one point to the 87 per cent mark, will further tighten the squeeze on university vacancies for those with disappointing grades.

Senior examination board officials say that a higher pass rate seems inevitable because far more students are passing the modular A level. Segments of the course, roughly equal to a term's work, are examined as soon as each is completed, and failed modules can be retaken.

An analysis of last year's results showed the pass rate for modular physics to be 89.3 per cent, compared with 82.3 per cent for traditional courses. In mathematics, 90.2 per cent passed the new-style course, compared with 83.4 per cent for the old.

Nearly a third of students receiving their results on Thursday took modular A levels, compared with 15 per cent last year, showing the popularity of the new approach with students and teachers. "Passes will rise because twice the number of modular examinations were taken," an examination board official said.

Examination boards are also concerned that schools worried about their league table position are discouraging weaker candidates, adding to the headline increase in pass rates.

Modular courses were introduced in 1988 and this year's results include the first batch of results in subjects such as geography, business studies, economics and government and politics. The majority of entries in English, mathematics, chemistry and physics are now for the modular examinations.

The courses have been dismissed by some traditionalists, but are favoured by schools because they encourage students to work throughout the two years. Examination boards say that the introduction of modular courses reflects the situation in many professional courses, such as law and accountancy, where papers can be retaken, and the move towards modular degree courses.

A study by the University of Newcastle found that the average grade in modular mathematics was C, compared with D on conventional courses. In this study, only 4 per cent of modular candidates failed, compared with 22 per cent on traditional courses.

Fears about the standard of modular courses were tackled by the previous Government when it ruled that no module could be retaken more than once and at least 30 per cent of the course had to be taken in the examination room at the end of the course.

Last year, 86 per cent of A-level candidates passed, with 53.8 per cent achieving grades between A and C.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, urged A-level students to be at home or near a telephone on Thursday in case they received grades they had not expected. A rise in the pass rate would mean fewer course vacancies in the clearing process, which matches students with university course vacancies after the A-level results are known.

Clearing is already forecast to be the most hectic on record this year, as up to 90,000 extra people rush for the last free university courses before the Government introduces annual £1,000 fees next year. "If the A-level pass rate goes up, then, unless admissions tutors have been very sophisticated in pitching their offers, there will be more students than expected who meet their offer grades," Mr Higgins said.

"Therefore, there will be fewer places left to be filled in clearing. If a course is close to full next week, admissions tutors might decide to go down their list of students holding conditional offers to fill the remaining places, rather than go into clearing."

☐ Trainee teachers are likely to be deterred by the Government's imposition of university course fees, according to the School Teachers' Review Board.

Tuition costs for the four years needed to qualify for a degree and train as a teacher, leading to estimated debts of £14,000, would add to the profession's recruitment problems, the board, which reviews teachers' pay, told *The Times Educational Supplement* yesterday. The Government said it would consider bursaries for teachers and medical students.

HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST

STUDENTS who fear A-level disappointment next week are being urged to plan for clearing now so they can act fast when their grades are published on August 14. Universities have become used to frantic telephone calls from distressed teenagers and have recruited unprecedented numbers of staff to cope with the expected deluge.

On A-level results day last year, the main switchboard at Manchester Metropolitan University, one of the country's biggest and busiest, received 29,255 calls. This year it expects to break the 30,000 barrier.

The Universities' and Colleges' Admissions Service advises would-be students that a personal visit can help because students can present their official clearing form and be available for interviews with tutors. However, Ucas does not recommend a visit next Thursday itself and advises that any trip should be agreed on the telephone first.

The number of places on popular courses in clearing was squeezed last year after the best-ever set of A level results was recorded. Hundreds of students visited their target institution on the day after results were published, with varying levels of success. One 400-mile round trip from Chelmsford in Essex to Leeds University was rewarded with a place on a science course. A similar journey from London to Leeds for an arts course ended in disappointment.

A number of telephone advice lines will be available to help make the decision about where to apply or whether to re-take or take a year out, and these numbers will appear in *The Times* next Thursday.

Universities must make their final decisions about candidates holding first choice conditional offers by Wednesday, August 13, and on those with insurance offers by the 15th, which is when students are officially released into clearing. But there is nothing to stop applicants calling universities to discuss their situation from the minute they receive their results.

☐ ***Full listings of degree course vacancies will appear in The Times next Thursday***

NEIL MUNNS/PA

Going for a song: a miniature music box sells for £495 in the souvenir shop

Royal souvenir shop decides to offer visitors a palatial choice

BUCKINGHAM Palace doubled the number of souvenirs on sale in its shop to 90 in time for the summer opening of the state rooms yesterday.

Market research found that visitors wanted a greater choice. The cheapest item is still a 100g bar of chocolate while at the other end of the scale there is a limited edition miniature carriage clock at £375 and a limited edition miniature musical box at £495.

This year's most popular items are expected to include a children's money box decorated with the Royal Coach and filled with jelly beans for £4.50, and a box of biscuits decorated with a picture of Queen Victoria's golden jubilee garden party at £6.50.

A 1,000-piece jigsaw, a top seller last year, makes a return with a picture of the Royal Family in 1846. It costs £7.50.

The adult entrance price has gone up from £8.50 to £9, the first increase in two years. Up to 7,000 people a day are expected to visit the palace until it closes on October 5.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Helicopter commander blamed for fatal crash

Pilot error is believed to have caused an Army Air Corps helicopter to crash with the loss of four lives while performing manoeuvres off the coast of Croatia two years ago. A Defence Ministry inquiry said the Lynx crashed because Sergeant Martin Osborne, 30, the commander, put it into too steep a dive. Sergeant Osborne and Air Trooper Ian Brain escaped, leaving three others trapped. Sergeant Osborne returned to try to help them but became trapped and the helicopter sank.

Jailed over 'rape'

An Irish tourist has been sentenced to four months in jail after admitting making a false rape complaint against three Irish soldiers in Cyprus. Annette Mangan, 22, of Dublin, had accused three soldiers with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon.

Man shot dead

Police launched a murder inquiry after Costin Lloyd Tucker, 41, was found with gunshot wounds to the head and body in Leicester city centre. Two police officers heard the shots while on routine patrol. Detectives reported a fracas at the scene.

Conductor quits

Andrew Davies, music director of Glyndebourne Festival Opera and chief conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, is stepping down to become music director of the Chicago Lyric Opera. He will continue as conductor laureate with the BBC orchestra.

Chilling news

The Ice Man is older than we thought. New studies of the leg bone of a 5,000-year-old frozen corpse found six years ago in an Alpine glacier show that he was nearer 50, not 25 to 40 as estimated. The average age of death at that time was 40.

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Deer estates braced for battle with the drive-by poachers

Organised gangs make thousands of pounds for one night of roadside slaughter, reports Shirley English

HIGHLAND gamekeepers are introducing 24-hour surveillance to combat roadside shootings of deer by a new breed of commercial poacher.

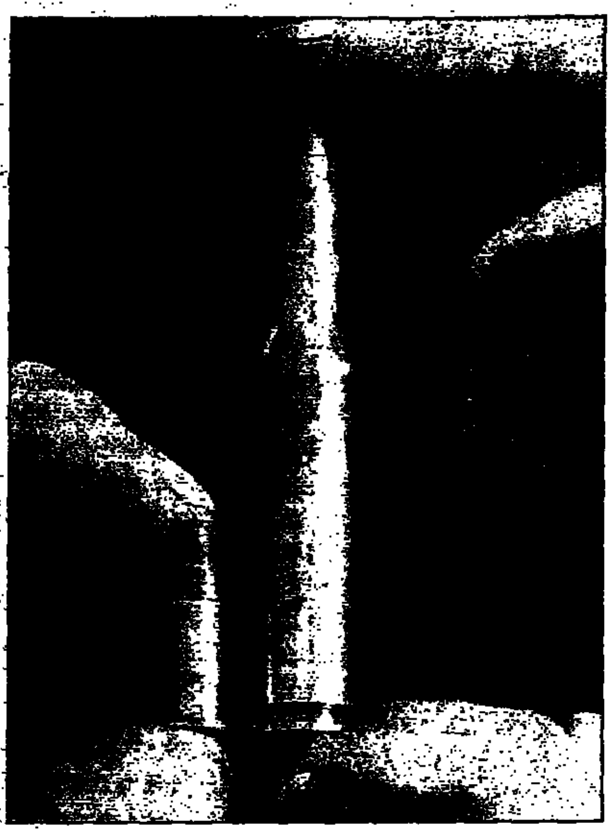
Last year poaching became big business for criminal gangs as the BSE scare sent venison prices soaring from about 80p a pound to a high of £1.40. Poachers were suddenly able to earn up to £200 per carcass and thousands of pounds for one night's work. The result was roadside shootings and 100mph car chases in areas where locals usually do not bother to lock their front doors.

Poachers are no longer lone stalkers, but gangs of men, often unemployed, with police records for assault, housebreaking and drugs offences. Last month a gamekeeper suffered eye injuries after his windscreen was shattered by a rifle blast as he chased a group of suspects.

With Monday heralding the start of the country sports season, estate-owners are braced for a battle. Squads of stalkers are preparing to provide round-the-clock watches on vulnerable herds and will patrol Highland roads with radios and police back-up.

Anything suspicious will be reported and every car that passes will be logged. Police are ready to respond with roadblocks, vehicle searches and DNA-testing of suspect carcasses.

The true scale of the problem is not known, as the evidence is largely anecdotal, but figures on estate culls produced by the Deer Commission for Scotland show that about one in ten red deer is now shot by "others", a category that embraces legal culls and illegal poaching. Police believe that hundreds of deer, including pregnant hinds grazing at Highland roadsides, were shot by poachers last year.



The smaller .22 bullets used by poachers make less noise than hunting rifle bullets, but often fail to kill

The gangs, often from the cities of Scotland and the North of England, usually operate as two teams in two vehicles: one to shoot and the other to collect carcasses. Some use rifles with infra-red night-sights, packs of dogs and scanners to monitor police radios.

According to Jock Logie, gamekeeper at the Loch Luichart estate in Wester Ross, dead deer are cut up by the roadside and unwanted heads and legs left behind. Wounded animals, hit by illegal, low-calibre .22 bullets, are left to die. On a neighbouring estate a gang shot 20 stags in one night last winter, firing from a van by the light of the headlights. Eleven wounded animals were left to die and were found later by a group of stalkers who jointly patrol three quarters of a million acres.

Mr Logie, 55, a gamekeeper for 40 years, said: "Their way of killing is an atrocity. They are thugs in every respect and vandals of a way of life."

He said that local poachers used traditional stalking skills to hunt a stag and rarely left any trace of their visits, but the new gangs were nothing more than thieves.

An old poacher from Muir of Ord, who would not be named, said: "The people coming in from the cities can't even shoot properly and they couldn't tell a hind from a stag. They shoot out of season, which we never did, and will kill hinds in calf."

Deer stalking is worth about £5 million a year to the Highland economy and, according to landowners, poaching is no longer a question of harmless redistribution of wealth. The scale of the slaughter, in which half the season's arranged stag cull can be taken in one night, makes estate management difficult.

Lady Eliza Leslie Melville, whose family owns the Loch Luichart estate, said it was upsetting for keepers who had spent the year maintaining the ecological balance of the estate, feeding deer in winter and selecting stags for the annual cull, to have their efforts undermined by one night's poaching.

MIKE WILKINSON

A hind on the Loch Luichart estate, Wester Ross. One carcass can fetch £200

The crime wave has also raised suspicions that some unscrupulous game dealers or crofters may be involved in distributing unchecked meat. Lady Eliza recently asked the Deer Commission to look into the possibility of searching game dealers' premises for illegal carcasses, but the commission replied that it was not a policing body.

Dick Youngson, technical director at the commission, said that deer poaching was not so widespread as to upset the national cull of deer. He said the commission was speaking to the Scottish Office about concerns that the courts did not take poaching cases seriously enough.

Ultimately, it may be market forces that come to the rescue of the estate owners: venison prices have fallen back to about 60p a pound, leaving the poachers to recalculate their profit margins.

Clive Aslet, page 20
Glorious Twelfth.
Weekend, page 1

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Race rock' organiser charged

Police investigating plans to hold a rock concert for hundreds of neo-Nazis this weekend have charged a 29-year-old Cardiff man with public-order offences. His 22-year-old girlfriend and two American men, aged 22 and 25, were released without charge. Police are still hunting for the venue for the concert, which coincides with a rally to mark 50 years of Indian independence.

Jail phone curb

Telephone "smart cards" are to be introduced into all prisons to prevent stalkers reaching victims from jail. The cards, allowing inmates to call only pre-approved numbers, have been tested at Full Sutton prison for a year.

Clean getaway

Police are to place electronic tags on clothes on washing lines in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, to trace thieves who steal the more expensive items. Newcastle United shirts costing from £40 are a particular target.

Firebomb shock

An incendiary bomb, left hidden under a table at a coffee shop in south Belfast, fell into a woman's lap as she took her seat. Police alerted by staff cleared the area. The device was taken away for examination.

Contest venue

The National Indoor Arena in Birmingham will be the venue for the next Eurovision song contest, in May. This year's contest, in Dublin, was won by Britain's entry, *Love Shine Alight*, sung by Katrina and the Waves.

Problem solved

Complaints about a foul smell and falls of white ash affecting homes and gardens in Maidstone, Kent, have led to the discovery of a mechanical fault at the town's crematorium. Repairs did not delay services.

Children to cost £100,000 each

No, it's not a new tax on children. Worse, this is the real cost you can expect to spend bringing up a child if you are an ordinary family on an average income. And that's after you've taken child benefit into account.

And if your child goes into private school and is likely to go onward to university, you could easily be looking at three times that.

These shock findings come from 'What Price a Child?',* an investigative study into the cost of child-rearing by well-known consumer journalist and broadcaster Jan Walsh.

Startling fact number 1

Where will the money come from if you or your partner are unlucky enough to die? £100,000 is a lot to find. Over twenty years it comes to just under £100 a week.

Yet amazingly, less than 45% of parents protect their families' future by simply insuring their lives.

Nobody expects to die young but if you think of five sets of parents who live near you, or whose children go to the same school as yours – the chances are that one of you will be dead before you're sixty**. Of course, simple odds say it won't be you, but do you really want to take that chance?

Startling fact number 2

A different sort of surprising fact is that from just £6 a month you can insure your life for the £100,000 it takes to bring up a child. So why don't you? Why don't so many others?

Virgin's own research shows that it's not because people can't afford £6 a month. It is largely because, until now, the business of taking out life insurance has been, to put it mildly, difficult and tedious.

Startling fact number 3

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Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life insurance and unit trust business and represents only the Virgin Direct marketing group. Virgin Direct markets only its own products. For your security, all calls are recorded and randomly monitored. * Source: Asda's 'What Price a Child?', May '96. **Source: Munich Re. 1 in 10 thirty-year-olds will die before they reach sixty.

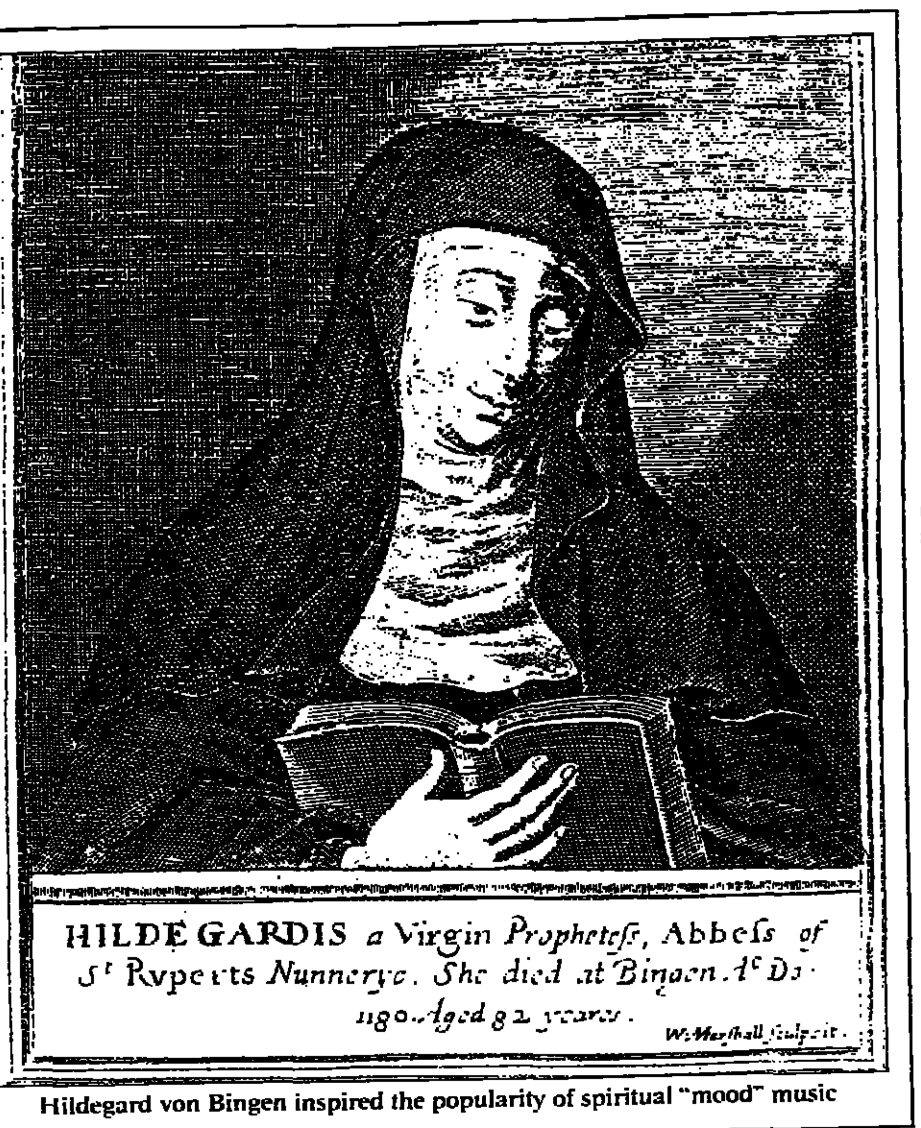
Virgins team up to put chants in the chart

By Ruth Gledhill

THE mystical hymns of a 12th-century nun appear to be heading for the top of the pop charts after being set to dance beats. Hildegard von Bingen's hymns were a hit when launched in the clubs of Ibiza last weekend.

Divine Works is being backed by a £200,000 publicity campaign by Virgin. The album, a fusion of "medieval chant, contemporary sounds and heavenly vocals", was put together by Klaus Zundel, who created *Sacred Spirit*, an album that fused native American chants and modern music.

Hildegard von Bingen was a mystic and writer who died in 1179. She became a Benedictine nun at 15 and abbess at 38. The discovery of her music in the 1970s helped to inspire the popularity of chant and spiritual "mood" music over the past two decades.


HILDEGARDIS a Virgin Propheteſs, Abbeſs of S^t Ruperts Nunnerye. She died at Bingen A^o D^o 1180. Aged 82 years.
W. Marſhall Sculpsit.

Hildegard von Bingen inspired the popularity of spiritual "mood" music

Trivia of parish life 'blocks the message'

The Archbishop of Canterbury says young people hungry for spirituality are put off, reports Ruth Gledhill

CLERGY and congregations are getting caught up in the trivia of parish life and failing to help a new generation to find God, according to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In a sermon to be delivered in New Zealand tomorrow, Dr George Carey will argue that some congregations are turning new believers away from church with their inward-looking obsessions with parish politics, the flower rota or the Church's teaching on sex.

Dr Carey will warn that they are in danger of making the Anglican Church an irrelevance and reducing it to a state where it is neither dead nor alive. He is concerned that too many "mediocre" clergy are caught up in "churchy affairs", which is putting off young people who are hungry for spirituality.

The Archbishop, drawing near to the end of a three-week visit to Australia and New Zealand, is due to preach his latest message at a choral eucharist at Wellington Town Hall tomorrow morning.

In the address he has prepared for delivery, he says: "Many congregations are growing numerically. Yet something still blocks the message from reaching a generation that is hungry spiritually."

Examining the cause, he says: "Coming as I do from a family without a churchgoing background, let me say with sadness that it is sometimes we who get in the way." He argues that too many clergy are failing to live the Christian faith as they should and are obstructing the Christian message "by reducing the staggering glory of God who became man by the mediocrity of lives caught up in churchy affairs".

Carey: will speak at Wellington Town Hall

Dr Carey quotes from a verse entitled *The Bishop's Last Farewell to his Clergy:* "Tell my priests when I am gone: o'er me to shed no tears; for I shall be no deader then than they have been for years."

He adds: "Congregations too can get in the way, if they reduce the message of the Kingdom of God to something that focuses too narrowly on the concerns of the local church, the Christmas bazaar, the church council meetings, the flower rota, the organist's playing or on particular issues such as the future of the liturgy or our teaching about human sexuality."

He continues: "If we create barriers, the Church can become irrelevant. It somehow hangs about on the fringes of social life, not quite dead and, indeed, not appearing to be dead, but somehow not alive either."

He says Christians must instead challenge the notion that people no longer need God. "Not only is the Church in good heart in many countries, religion shows no sign of dying anywhere in the world.

"Somehow the Church has to recapture the authenticity of Jesus, who still continues to meet those who are searching for a deeper sense of satisfaction in life."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 12

Credo

Trust in God to prove His existence

John Haldane

Last year I was involved in an academic debate with another philosopher. Our exchange was in the form of a book in which we took turns to present our cases for atheism and theism, followed by chapters criticising one another's arguments. There was no clear victor, nor did either of us change our minds about the central question of whether there is a God. It would have been surprising had one of us converted, for the main points pro and con — chance and necessity; evil and providence — are ones we each have fairly settled views about.

Unlike the two of us, I suspect that most people are agnostically disposed and this set me thinking about what might be said to someone who asks, with open heart and mind, "What reason can you give me to believe in God?" In Hebrew scripture and accounts of the early Christian Church we read of "proof contests": Jews or Christians in dispute with pagans might find themselves challenged to invoke their God to prove His existence or power.

Scripture warns, however, that God will not be tested and it might therefore seem impious to seek that kind of sign. God's will is not something to be commanded; recall the saying "Man proposes, God disposes". Nonetheless, I think it is legitimate to turn to Heaven and say, "If there is a God, show that it is so."

Christians believe in the communion of saints, in those who have died in grace and are blessed in the company of God. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that the sanctity of the deceased may show itself through the efficacy of their intercession with God on behalf of the living. This is the basis for the requirement of an attested miracle in the Vatican process of canonisation. Contrary to a common misunderstanding, the belief is not that the saint effects a cure, say, on his or her own account. Everything comes from God, but He may grant a petition raised in eternity on behalf of those living in time and this petition may be for the grace to help them to believe.

That idea allowed, may we not also approach God directly? Of course: Christ instructs us how to do so in the *Our Father*. But this presumes prior belief. What of those for whom the need is to know whether there is a Father which art in Heaven? Here I return to the agnostic and the call to Heaven: "Show yourself."

Understood now as a plea and not as an order, it is not impious, but it may yet be unreasonable. Hebrew and Christian scripture teach that God's relationship with mankind is primarily one of covenant: a partnership between unequals, and a relationship in which the first question that arises is: what would you have us do? The answer is plain: love God and do his will.

Those who seek reason to believe in God, and are looking for something that will show itself in their lives, would do well to enter into a speculative covenant with the God who they are not sure is there. Live as if dependent on the Father in Heaven and follow the commandments, and God will enter the open heart and that fact will become clear. Not every proof takes the form of an argument.

☐ *John Haldane is Professor of Philosophy in the University of St Andrews.*

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Diane Richardson, who practised while suspended, admitted assaulting patients

Dentist tried to extract teeth while on drugs

By Peter Foster

A DENTIST who attempted to perform tooth extractions while high on drugs was convicted of assaulting six of her patients and fined more than £1,000 yesterday.

Diane Richardson carried on practising even though she had been suspended by the General Dental Council because of her drinking, Nottingham Crown Court was told. Richardson, 47, was arrested after a mother complained that her young son had been terrified by her.

Tracey Saunders told the court how she took her 14-year-old son Justin to Richardson's surgery in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, to have two teeth taken out. She became worried when he did not appear after an hour.

She entered the surgery to find her son lying on a couch looking pale and shocked with Richardson behind him holding her head in her hands: "I thought something might have gone wrong but I told myself she must know best," she said. Five minutes later, Richardson came swaying to the doorway and stood supporting herself on the doorframe before walking to reception. "I jumped up and rushed in to see Justin. He had been left all alone under anaesthetic. He was so frightened that he ripped off the bib and threw himself into my arms. He told me she was blind drunk and had fallen all over him," she added.

Tracey Saunders with her son Justin, 14, who said Richardson tried and failed to inject him seven times

The boy later told his mother how Richardson had made seven attempts to inject him with anaesthetic and had failed each time: "He had swallowed a lot of the liquid, which meant he was numb down all one side of his body. He couldn't walk properly for two days. He was also off school for 12 weeks," Mrs Saunders said.

Her son was too frightened to see a dentist, or anyone in the medical profession, again. "He was supposed to go into hospital on Monday for an operation on his nose, but when the time came he became hysterical."

Police who arrested Richardson described her as having bloodshot eyes, being unsteady on her feet and lacking co-ordination.

The court was told that Richardson had been fighting alchohol and substance addictions for ten years. She was suspended on health grounds by the General Dental Council in 1990, again in 1994 and for a third time in August last year because of her drinking.

Caroline Bradley, in mitigation, said her client was now undergoing psychiatric counselling. Richardson, who admitted six charges of assault, was fined £1,200 and ordered to pay £500 costs.

Judge Keith Matthewman, QC, said: "What you did brings shame on your profession and came about because you were on drugs." After the case, the GDC said it could not comment on individuals but supported prosecution for illegal practice.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Animal magic, by Roald Dahl

❛Now with the rich
there is a rule.
They always build a
swimming pool.

Into this pool
she put (don't smile)
A tame and friendly
crocodile . . .❜

Previously unpublished lines for Roald Dahl's poem The Crocodile feature in the latest instalment of an exclusive summer series of his work. The Sunday Times Magazine, tomorrow

Jimmy Savile to keep on running after bypass

By Paul Wilkinson

SIR JIMMY SAVILE vowed to carry on smoking cigars as he recovered from major heart surgery yesterday.

The 71-year-old celebrity also said he would continue running for charity after a three-hour quadruple heart by-pass operation at Killingbeck Hospital in Leeds.

Well-wishers flooded the switchboard with calls and a steady stream of flowers arrived at the hospital, where he is expected to stay for two weeks.

As he was moved from intensive care to a general ward, Janet Cope, his secretary, said: "Smoking cigars has nothing to do with his heart problem. He has a huge cigar burning almost all the time, but he does not inhale. He's got stacks of cigars in his flat and he won't be giving those up. God forbid.

"He won't be able to do any more marathons, as 26 miles is too far, but he will still keep fit and will continue with charity fun runs. Jimmy had noticed he was getting breathless on recent runs and has been careful. He first knew he had to have the operation four years ago but had kept putting it off, although he kept going for check-ups. Then his sister Chrissie died a few weeks ago from a heart attack and I think that made him realise it was time." His mother Agnes died from a heart attack in 1976 when she was in her mid-80s and his other sister, who lived in Australia, died from heart failure.

Kevin Watterson, the surgeon who carried out the operation on Thursday, said yesterday: "He is fully conscious but is weak. He has been able to squeeze my hand and is smiling."

Sir Jimmy: recovering after 3-hour operation

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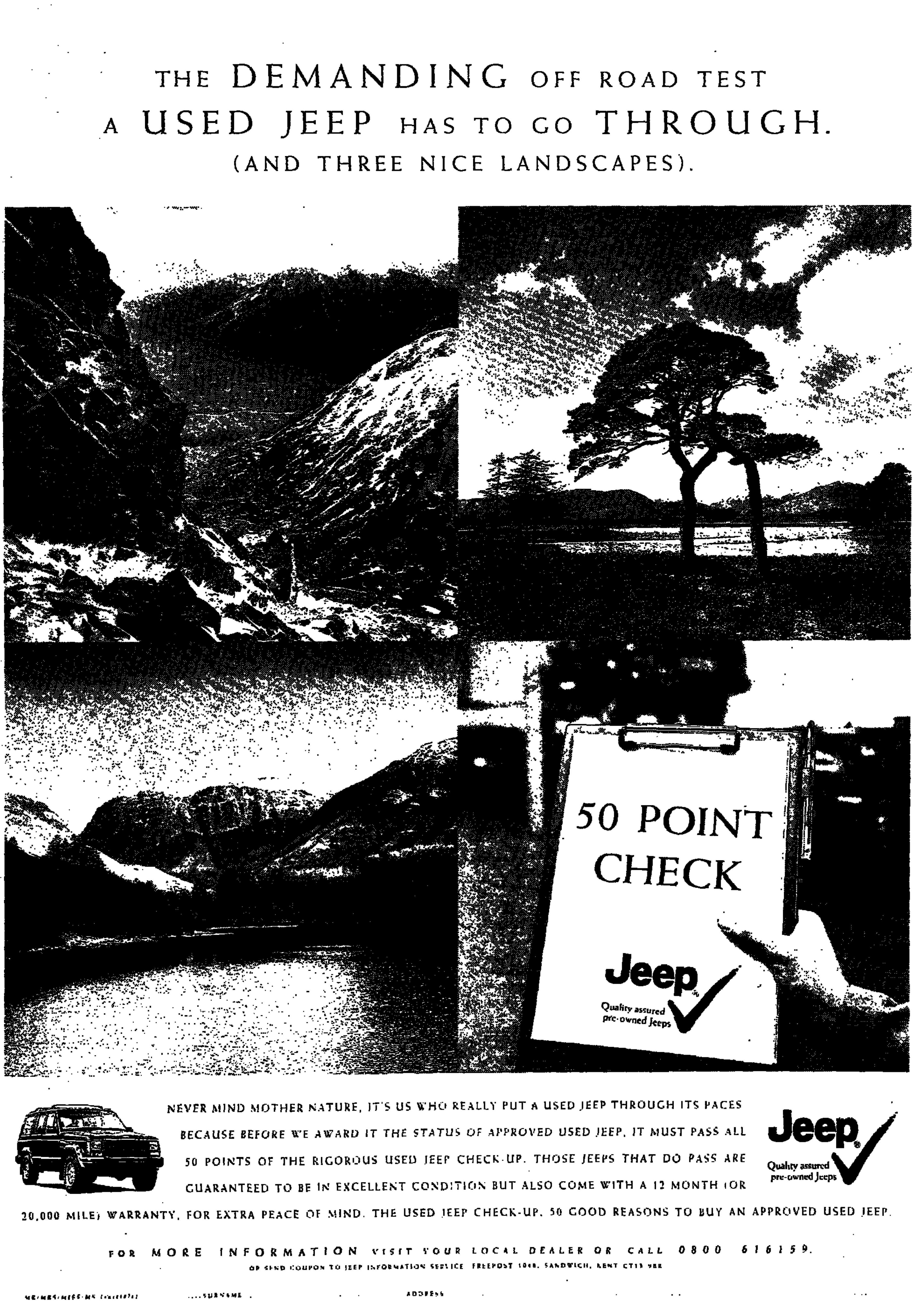

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Mandelson outburst at BBC overshadows poll anniversary

'News fixer' dislikes being the news himself, reports **Andrew Pierce**

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Mandelson and Prescott yesterday: trying to focus on the party's achievements and a "flying start"

100 DAYS OF LABOUR

PETER MANDELSON'S carefully co-ordinated celebrations to mark Labour's 100 days in office were overshadowed yesterday when he became embroiled in a fierce public row over his role. He accused the BBC for focussing on alleged media management and ignoring the Government's achievements.

Appearing on Radio 4's *The World at One*, The Minister without Portfolio had been asked a stream of questions about his declaration in *The Times* that he "was running the shop" with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, while Tony Blair was on holiday. Mr Mandelson repeatedly rebuked the reporter, Martha Kearney, who was presenting the programme *World at One* for only the second time. Within hours of the broadcast, the BBC received dozens of complaints about his behaviour.

He said: "I think the reason why media people like you like talking about news management is because you really rather prefer talking about yourselves and your work and your lives in the media, than talking about things that interest the bulk of the population.

"I'm talking about their schools and their health service. I'm talking about their fear of crime. I'm talking about unemployment and poverty in this country. This week we've had day in and day out a preoccupation with yourselves. I think it's become very boring and very tedious."

Earlier this week, *The World at One* had carried reports suggesting that Mr Mandelson had manipulated news at the weekend to divert attention from Robin Cook's marriage break-up. BBC officials said that there had been a long-running feud between the programme and Labour's top "spin doctor". Mr Mandelson refused to answer questions as to why, as a non-Cabinet minister, Mr Blair had left him in such an exalted position while he was on holiday in Tuscany.

At a press conference, Mr Mandelson and Mr Prescott attempted to brush off damaging headlines over a fourth interest-rate rise, defeat in the Uxbridge by-election, and the suicide of the Labour MP Gordon McMaster, which has prompted an internal inquiry. Mr Prescott said that the Government had shown itself to be modern, fair and strong: "We have had a flying start."

Nobody could now say that Labour was the same as the Tories, broke promises, was not governing as new Labour, was not up to the job, or was "selling out" on Europe.

But many of the questions again focussed on Mr Mandelson's role as the architect of policy presentation. He again criticised the preoccupation with his wide-ranging duties. He said: "I've never heard such a stream of vainglorious, self-indulgent questions from members of the media about how they are allegedly managed by me. I'm sorry if you're not doing your job properly, such as you have to have me write your scripts and fix your headlines."

The Conservatives, who had focussed their attack on Labour's first 100 days by highlighting the "£500 annual cost" to average household through interest rate rises and the cut in mortgage tax relief, switched their firepower to Mr Mandelson. Francis Maude, the Shadow Culture Secretary, said: "Peter Mandelson seems to be suffering from midsummer madness verging on megalomania. He has begun to think of himself as Prime Minister-in-waiting. During the BBC interview, he became increasingly hysterical."

A Labour MP criticised the party for over-emphasis on presentation. Ann Clwyd said: "We're not androids. We're not going to be manipulated and we are going to speak out about things that we disagree with. There are those of us who kept very tight lips up to May 1, and after that said if we have anything critical or anything good to say, we will say it."

Leading article, letters, page 21

THE VERDICT

Lord Blake, Conservative historian: "The Government has got off to quite a good start, but it is euphoric and arrogant. Pride comes before a fall. Making morality important in foreign policy is a big change."

Madsen Pirie, president of the Adam Smith Institute: "The new Government comes in with an energy and vigour that its predecessor lacked. I don't think it means a permanent new era, but it does mean a fresh approach. It has a tight grip and so far has proved competent. Independence for the Bank of England was such an imaginative and exciting step it boded well for a radical and dynamic approach."

Michael Dobbs, novelist and former Tory official: "It was summed up by Cherie Blair on the morning after the election when she opened her front door to accept some flowers. Her hair was a mess and she looked like she'd had only three hours' sleep. She looked shocked to find the photographers still camped outside. It was a reminder that even at the height of your success, the image-makers don't always get there first."

Jilly Cooper, novelist: "It's exciting. Everything has been changing and everyone seems so happy about it. Even Robin Cook's marriage break-up became his 'restructured marriage'. I'm delighted because it looks like they'll end quarantine for dogs. And they've been so nice to Camilla and Charles. I voted Tory because I just love John and Norma but if there was an election tomorrow I would vote for Blair."

Alan Clark, Tory MP: "Initially, I was impressed. Blair did a lot of things we funked or got wheelspin trying to do. But I think he's wrecked it by getting down into the gutter with all these showbusiness people. Of course, people who read the tabloids may like it."

Barry Norman, film critic: "In town that day people had a spring in their step and that hasn't subsided yet. The film industry has been very impressed. You never thought Major or his arts ministers really knew anything."

Robert Harris, novelist and Blair confidante: "It was like going on holiday. The country didn't realise how much it needed the break until it got there. We don't have to listen to Michael Howard any more, which is a great release. The election proved you don't have to be a Tory to do a top job."

Carla Lane, screenwriter and animal welfare campaigner: "It has been like heaven. The concern for animals has multiplied and where we were faced with a brick wall on live animal exports, we now have ministers who listen. I'm disappointed about the block that seems to be put on the fox-hunting ban. The supporters were able to take the day off work, while the majority tended to be quieter."

Steve Norris, former Tory minister: "I give them 4/10 for activity, 4/10 for constructive government and 9/10 for presentation. If I were William Hague, I'd buy Peter Mandelson."

Sir Tim Rice, lyricist and Tory cheerleader: "There was a general feeling of wanting a change without a change of direction, and that's what people have got."

John Gray, Oxford don and ex-Thatcherite: "What's striking is how little the mood of May 2 has changed. This Government is still in a position to embody national consensus, in a way no other Government has done."

Steve Bell, cartoonist: "The terrible thing is that I've lost John Major for ever, with his underpants. It is a shame as he was a wonderful character to draw."

Normal service is resumed after a winning start

By Mark Henderson

THE FEELGOOD FACTOR

THINGS could only get better. And within a few days of Tony Blair's victory on May 1, they did. Britain basked in glorious May sunshine. We won the Eurovision song contest for the first time in 15 years and building society windfalls sent the feelgood factor soaring.

The England cricket team trounced Australia in the one-day internationals and the first Test. Our footballers could do no wrong: England beat Poland at football, then won the Tournoi de France against Italy, France and Brazil; Scotland won matches against Malta and Belarus.

The British Lions triumphed in South Africa; Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski were doing well at Wimbledon; Chris Boardman wore the yellow jersey after his prologue victory in the Tour de France; and Colin Montgomerie was said to be the only man who could beat Tiger Woods to the Open golf championship. This was to be Britain's summer of sport.

The May weather confounded the forecasters, staying bright, hot and sunny, despite predictions of a wet month. "New Labour, new weather," quipped George Robertson, the new Defence Secretary, as he strolled down Whitehall on May 2 in blazing sunshine.

"New Labour, new cricket," said John Prescott, celebrating the England team's astonishing early-season form.

Four Tests on, and 100 days into the Blair Government, something approaching normal service has been resumed. Australia have a hand and a half on the Ashes after England batting collapses at Old Trafford and Headingley. Rusedski and Henman were thrashed in the Wimbledon quarter finals, and Montgomerie failed at Troon.

Boardman crashed out of the Tour, and even England's World Cup prospects took a knock with an ankle injury to Alan Shearer.

Building society windfalls for some were offset by interest rate rises for all. And for all our Eurovision success, a single by the American rappers Puff Daddy and Faith Evans, *I'll Be Missing You*, has been the longest-lived summer number one.

And the weather? Labour's historical knack of bringing the rain with election victories turned out to be delayed, not reversed. Britain splashed its way through the wettest June this century, and floods hit the South at the start of August.

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Judge acquits US couple of island murder

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

Fletcher: spent months in Caribbean prison

A WEALTHY American couple who spent seven months in a Caribbean jail were acquitted of murder yesterday by a jury in Kingstown, St Vincent.

As the judge ordered them to leave the dock, Penella Fletcher, 35, from Huntington, West Virginia, collapsed into the arms of her 50-year-old husband, James, crying with relief.

Family members gathered around, sobbing and hugging. "Penny and I are relieved and thankful," Mr Fletcher said. "Our trial was carried out in the finest tradition of English jurisprudence. Justice has been served."

The couple had been accused of murdering Jerome "Jolly" Joseph, a water-taxi operator on the island of Bequia. Joseph was last seen alive on October 6, when he picked the couple up at a bar and ferried them to their yacht, moored outside the harbour.

The Fletchers' case, which has been a cause célèbre, had come to be seen as a metaphor for relations between "big, bad America" and tiny St Vincent.

Their acquittal, however, has surprised few in Kingstown. The evidence on which the couple were charged was flimsy, based almost entirely on hearsay and the tainted testimony of a deckhand whom the Fletchers had sacked some days before their arrest. The dead man was a charming roué and it was alleged that Mrs Fletcher had had an affair with him. Islanders also testified that a drunken Mrs Fletcher had vowed that she would "shoot herself a black man" after complaining that a black man had once raped her.

The arrests of the Fletchers touched a popular chord on the island, where the couple were seen as rich, drunken exploiters. Even Sir James Mitchell, the Prime Minister, described them as "typical ugly Americans".

The case attracted considerable attention in America after the Fletchers' relatives alerted the media to the couple's plight. St Vincent came swiftly to be portrayed in the US press as a primitive place where an unpopular American couple would be unlikely to get a fair trial. So clamorous was the media campaign that President Clinton sought assurances from Sir James that the Fletchers would receive "the full protection of the due process of law".

The trial, which began on July 28, lasted only 12 days, and would have ended even sooner had it not been for procedural wrangling by the prosecution.

Yesterday, the judge, Dunbar Cenac, of the Eastern Caribbean High Court, ruled: "There is no evidence before me, direct or indirect, that the accused committed this act."

Had the Fletchers been found guilty, they would have faced capital punishment by hanging, and their case might have gone all the way to the Privy Council.

Storm rages over telling of salty tale

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

A WRITER whose story of a violent storm at sea is racing to the top of America's non-fiction bestsellers' list has been accused of writing "a largely fictional account" by many of the real-life characters in the book.

Some of the characters, salty fishermen outraged at being described as overly macho, hubristic and reckless, are even threatening to sue Sebastian Junger, author of *The Perfect Storm*. Junger's book, reviewed in *The Times* yesterday, tells the vivid tale of a freak storm that ravaged the Grand Banks in October 1991, taking life and wrecking a fleet of American fishing boats. More precisely, it traces the torment of one ship, the *Andrea Gail*, following its crew from the days before the storm to the tragic aftermath.

Critics say the book is so riddled with inaccuracies, omissions and inventions it has no right to be called "non-fiction". Speaking to *The New York Observer*, James Simonitsch, a boat surveyor who assessed the *Andrea Gail* before she went down, said: "He wrote a pretty good story, but it should have been fiction."

Junger has not helped his case by conceding that "there's a bunch of stuff wrong with the book". On the first page of the book, he writes: "In the end, I wound up sticking to the facts, but in as wide-ranging a way as possible."

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GRANT HALVERSON / AP

Dorothy Hutelmyer claimed the other woman enticed her husband into an affair

Jury says second wife must pay $1m to the first

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

CHAMPIONS of family values have hailed a startling end to a North Carolina court case in which a man's second wife was ordered to pay his first spouse $1 million (£625,000) for breaking up their 19-year marriage.

Jurors sided with Dorothy Hutelmyer, 40, who alleged that her husband's secretary, Margie Cox, 39, enticed him into the affair.

James Hutelmyer, an insurance company executive, divorced his wife in March and married Ms Cox. He is reported to pay her more than $4,000 a month in alimony and child support for their three sons.

The verdict was based on North Carolina's "alienation of affection" statute which dates back to the 1700s, a type of law which most states abolished years ago. Southern juries have a reputation for awarding breathtakingly big damages to make ideological points in highly charged cases.

"We hope this will send a message to the community," said James Walker, Dorothy Hutelmyer's lawyer in the suit, who also employs her as a legal assistant. "We just recognise down here that we want to preserve the family."

Lawyers in New York, which struck a similar law off its books in 1935, greeted the decision with incredulity. "It is wrong-headed thinking that a third party is solely responsible for the situation," said Doug Rothkopf, a New York matrimonial lawyer.

Ms Cox, who is now known as Mrs Hutelmyer, plans to appeal against the award of $500,000 in compensatory damages and $500,000 in punitive damages. North Carolina courts are braced for a run of similar cases in the wake of the award.

Dorothy Hutelmyer said the verdict would help her move on in her community with her head high.

☐ Law of the land: Britain has no law of "alienation of affection" and there are no grounds under which a wife could sue her husband's lover or second wife for damages.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY AUGUST 9 1997

Pitcher in fight to stay on at United

By Christine Buckley and Jason Nissé

SIR Desmond Pitcher was yesterday fighting a rearguard action to remain as executive chairman of United Utilities after falling out with Sir Peter Middleton, the senior non-executive on the water and electricity group's board.

Sir Peter, who is also chairman of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, has been meeting with institutional investors who are pressing for Sir Desmond's early retirement in the wake of the sacking of Brian Staples, United's chief executive. However, the company said that Sir Peter was operating without a formal mandate, a statement that has angered Sir Peter, who believes he is working within the spirit of this week's Hampel committee report on corporate governance.

United has promised to tell the City of its plans for succession in October. Sir Desmond and Derek Green, the recently appointed chief executive, have said they will stay on until 2000, when Sir Desmond will retire, and this will clarify what happens in the meantime.

However, a leading pension fund said yesterday: "Sir Desmond has brought the matter to a head. It is time to bring in a new non-executive chairman and if there is no one to take the role immediately maybe appoint a senior non-executive in a temporary role."

Getting rid of Sir Desmond now could be an expensive move. The man, described last year as "king of the fat cats" has a two-year contract paying a basic salary of £310,000 a year.

Sir Desmond has a formidable reputation for loving a fight, and timing in such matters is critical. The company faces competition in the electricity market and a supply price review next year. Sir Desmond has been closely involved in United's plans for the electricity market.

Sir Peter, who has meetings scheduled with shareholders to the end of next month, has been accused by some of those close to the meetings as whipping up support for Sir Desmond's sidelining.

Sir Peter, some suggest, has aspirations of a bigger role at the company. But one source said: "It is unlikely that that would happen. It would be a case of the one who wields the knife doesn't get to wear the crown."

Sir Desmond is expected to stay out of the action until late October, when Mr Green presents a review of the business to shareholders.

This week, Sir Desmond told *The Times* that the issue of Mr Staples' departure and unrest about the board would be over by the company's interim results in November.

An emergency board meeting is not planned. The company said the next meeting is scheduled for late August.

Clear view, page 26

Sir Desmond poured cold water on departure talk

Sea change signalled as sterling takes a dive

By Michael Clark and George Sivell

THE financial markets underwent a sea change yesterday as the pound headed down towards DM2.90, reacting to the Bank of England's attempts to talk down sterling.

Leading stocks suffered a sharp fall and shares in medium-sized companies, many of whom are exporters hurt by the high pound, enjoyed a welcome boost.

Foreign exchange dealers took Thursday's hint from the Bank of England that interest rates have peaked at 7 per cent and marked the pound down by 4.51 pfennigs to DM2.9249 by the close. Sterling has now fallen 12 pfennigs in the past week and 17 pfennigs from the recent eight-year high of DM3.0878.

Analysts said that the sterling bubble had burst and meant that dealers were likely to focus on shares of medium-sized companies that were sensitive to export volumes and the pound. In stark contrast to the 55.5 fall by the FTSE 100 index to 5,031.3 yesterday, the FTSE 250 index of medium-sized companies rose 52.3 points, to close at 4,650.5. Trading was brisk with more than one billion shares changing hands. The FTSE 100 index still ended 132 points up on the week.

The banks and drug companies, which helped the London market to rise by almost 25 per cent this year, came in for profit-taking to end the week on a subdued note.

To add to the mix, Wall Street fell sharply. US bonds had fallen heavily by midday trading in New York. Dealers blamed portfolio liquidations, sales by hedge funds, and rumours of a report of strong retail sales due to come out next week.

In addition, the rising bond yields brought fears of higher inflation and the possibility once again of higher American interest rates.

This dragged the equity market down. In early afternoon trading the Dow Jones industrial average had fallen 118.92 points to 8,069.00 after suffering a 211-point fall earlier in the day.

In London, gilts suffered from the fall in the pound. The September gilt future fell almost £1 lower at £114⁹⁄₃₂, reversing the rise after Thursday's quarter point rise in base rates to 7 per cent. Bond specialists blamed a fall in US Treasury bonds for the London falls rather than any domestic pressure.

Market report, page 28

ABBEY NATIONAL has followed the Cheltenham & Gloucester in raising interest rates for its two million borrowers. The bank was reacting to Thursday's base rate rise of 0.25 per cent. The Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and other UK lenders are expected to announce increases at the start of next week. Borrowers with mortgages of up to £59,999 will now pay 8.45 per cent, those with loans of between £60,000 and £100,000 will pay 8.4 per cent, while those with loans of over £100,000 will pay 8.35 per cent. A borrower with a £50,000 interest-only mortgage will pay £320 per month; previously they paid £310.

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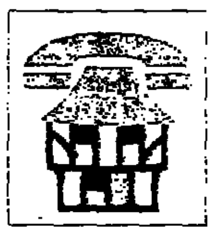

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5031.3	(-55.5)
Yield	3.28%	
FTSE All share	2354.83	(-14.24)
Nikkei	19604.46	(+128.61)
New York		
Dow Jones	8060.48	(-127.52)*
S&P Composite	935.18	(-16.01)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5[illegible]%*	(5[illegible]%)
Long Bond	96[illegible]*	(101[illegible])
Yield	6.61%*	(6.63%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7[illegible]%	(7[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Sep)	114[illegible]	(115[illegible])

STERLING

New York		
$	1.5850*	(1.5875)
London:		
$	1.5784	(1.5860)
DM	2.9249	(2.9711)
FFr	9.8580	(10.0250)
SFr	2.3848	(2.4268)
Yen	182.90	(187.94)
£ Index	101.3	(102.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.8455*	(1.8690)
FFr	6.2920*	(6.3050)
SFr	1.5070*	(1.5305)
Yen	114.93*	(118.43)
$ Index	105.9	(108.9)

Tokyo close Yen 118.53

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Oct)	$18.85	($19.10)

GOLD

London close	$324.85	($322.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Dividends

The water regulator accused the industry of failing to fully disclose details of how companies fund their controversially high dividend payments to shareholders. An ultimatum was delivered by Ian Byatt for them to come clean.

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Director at M&S cashes in

By Sarah Cunningham

KEITH OATES, deputy chairman of Marks & Spencer, yesterday became the latest director of the retailer to make the most of its recent share price surge.

He exercised options to acquire 100,000 shares at 254p each and then sold them at 601p — just off the highest price of the day — making a profit of £347,000. Marks & Spencer shares have risen nearly £1 in the past six weeks on the back of strong trading and its purchase of 19 Littlewoods stores.

His total shareholding remains unchanged at 305,572 shares, worth £1.83 million at the current share price. The wife of another director, Jim Benfield, sold 45,000 shares at £5.96 each last week.

Mr Oates, who is joint managing director, was the company's highest paid director last year, earning £608,000. He also gained £836,000 on share options.

Woolwich faces writs on shares

By Caroline Merrell

THE Woolwich could face paying thousands of pounds worth of compensation if a legal action proposed by the disgruntled son of a shareholder in the newly converted bank is successful.

Thousands of Woolwich savers and borrowers are still waiting for share certificates, even though the bank made its stock market debut more than a month ago. These shareholders have been unable to sell their holdings, in spite of the 18 per cent drop in the share price since July 7, the first day of trading.

Geoffrey Waldren, from Dorset, whose father is due certificates for 926 shares, believes that the Woolwich should pay compensation. If his father had been able to sell the shares on the first day of trading he would have made between £3,000 and £3,400, now they would fetch about £2,700. The share certificates are now expected to arrive next week, when the price might be even lower. Woolwich shares fell 6p to 298½p yesterday.

Mr Waldren has consulted Max Bitel Greene, a firm of lawyers in London, about the possibilities of pressing for compensation. He is hoping to get together an action group of at least 1,000 shareholders. He said: "The Woolwich could be faced with very large claims for substantial losses, as many tens of thousands of people could be involved."

A Woolwich spokeswoman said that the vast majority of the 2.7 million Woolwich shareholders had received their shares successfully.

She said: "Around 10,0[illegible] have experienced difficulties. They have been generated for a huge number of different reasons. We are trying to get the situation sorted out as quickly as we can. If we were at fault, we may offer compensation. Each case will be considered on its merits."

Offshore Internet bank fails

By Robert Miller

AN OFFSHORE bank, operating on the Internet and the subject of a Bank of England alert, has crashed.

The Antiguan-based European Union Bank (EUB), which offered high rates of interest on deposits and guaranteed "secrecy", was shut by the authorities after a depositor was unable to withdraw his $128,000 (£80,706).

Last October the Bank of England told potential depositors to think carefully and check before handing over their money to banks advertising on the Internet.

The Office of National Drugs and Money Laundering Policy in Antigua has issued a fraud alert for at least two shareholders in EUB, one a Canadian based in Toronto and the other from New York.

The Antiguan Government has appointed the eastern Caribbean arm of Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, to investigate and act as receiver.

Brussels to redraw UK 'map'

By Adam Jones

THE map of the UK is to be redrawn at the behest of Brussels next year. But patriots can sleep easy: the changes are being made for accounting purposes and they correct a long-standing anomaly.

For years, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man have been treated as part of the UK in the nation's official accounts, even though their self-governing status gives them legal and administrative independence.

Next year, changes in the way these accounts are presented, prompted by a need to fall into line with our European Union partners, mean the offshore tax havens will no longer be deemed part of the UK. The islands are not part of the EU, said the Office for National Statistics (ONS) yesterday, and must therefore be excluded from the UK's internal market. A spokesman added: "There was a question mark over whether they should have been there in the first place."

Sales of goods to the islands will from 1998 be seen as exports. Deposits made in a Jersey bank account will be viewed as having left the country.

The ONS said the UK's balance of payments, detailed in the annual "Pink Book", will be affected, but is unsure how at this early stage.

Changes will also be made to the Blue Book, also known as the United Kingdom Annual Accounts. Transactions which were viewed as short or medium-term consumption are to be reclassified as capital investment in 1998.

Buying a milk cow or a fruit tree will be seen in the same light as building a factory, but buying a chicken is viewed like going shopping for groceries. Van Gogh paintings and the rights to distribute Oasis's chart topping new album will also be seen as longer-term investments, as will computer software.

Data will be split into more categories than before, including more information on the financial sector.

The move to the new European System of Accounts will make it easier to compare national economies, the ONS said. It said it was too early to say whether UK growth estimates would be larger or smaller under the new system.

A dummy run using the new European accounting standards will be made this autumn, working with 1997 figures to ease the transition.

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Franchisees prepare to sue Pierre Victoire

By Dominic Walsh and Katy Pullen

PIERRE VICTOIRE, the Edinburgh-based budget restaurant chain, is being threatened with litigation from failed franchisees, further putting in doubt its plans to float on AIM.

Three former franchisees blame a lack of support from Pierre Victoire for their failure and are preparing to sue the company for breach of contract. It is understood further ex-franchisees are being contacted with a view to initiating joint proceedings. In the past three months alone five companies operating franchises inside the M25 have been placed in liquidation.

Launched nine years ago in Edinburgh, the original French Pierre Victoire concept aimed to "deliver fresh food at unbeatable prices". Its popular £4.90 three-course lunch has recently gone up to £5.90, but the basic cheap-and-cheerful concept survives. More recently it has introduced the even cheaper Chez Jules, the vegetarian Pierre Lapin and Beppe Vittorio, an Italian brand.

Founder Pierre Levicky has seen his empire swell to more than 100 outlets, of which 80 are franchises, with total turnover of around £40 million. He recently opened a 300-seat outlet in Brussels and has further plans for international growth.

Last year, the company appointed Fiske & Co, the brokers, to prepare an AIM flotation, but it has yet to materialise. However, Bryan Rankin, chairman of Pierre Victoire, refuted suggestions that the company's financial position was behind the delay, claiming the company had simply missed last summer's original deadline for providing documentation to the Stock Exchange.

He said that, although a flotation was still a possibility, plans had been put on hold after the company secured equity funding worth £1 million from Abtrust Scotland, the development capital group.

Mr Rankin admitted a small number of franchisees had failed, but only after deviating from the company manual. "We've got 80-odd franchises, and clearly we're not going to get them all right. There are people who don't listen and don't do it right, and they don't make it."

He said he was unaware of any legal action pending, but added: "They're complaining and turning the blame on us. I've yet to hear someone who went bust blame themselves."

But Denis McCrossan, one of the former franchisees threatening legal action, said a lack of support from head office had made it difficult to function profitably.

Pierre Levicky, founder of Pierre Victoire, which is under fire from failed franchisees

Flare buys rivals but shares slip

By Chris Ayres

FLARE GROUP, the Stoke-on-Trent ceramics manufacturer, yesterday took steps to expand its product range and move into continental Europe with the acquisition of two smaller rivals. It bought Elmeceram, of Limoges, France, for £2.3 million and Rathbone, based in Stoke-on-Trent, for £1.15 million.

Elmeceram produces moulding and casting equipment for the ceramics industry and Rathbone manufactures printed transfers used to decorate ceramic goods. The purchase of the two companies will be funded through the placing of 6.9 million shares at 120p each, raising about £7.8 million.

Flare's directors were dismayed yesterday when their plans failed to restore market confidence in the company. Its share price continued to slide from last year's high of 166p½, closing down 1p at 124p.

Steve Thornhill, Flare's financial director, said: "We believe our shares are significantly undervalued at the moment."

Holland & Barrett sold to US vitamin company

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent

HOLLAND & Barrett, Britain's best known health food chain, has been sold to an American vitamin manufacturer and retailer for £100 million.

NBTY, originally known as Nature's Bounty, has guaranteed the jobs of the 2,250 staff.

Holland & Barrett was acquired by Gehe when it bought Lloyds Chemists at the start of the year. Gehe said from the outset that it wanted to sell the health food business.

NBTY said that Holland & Barrett's existing management team would continue to run the business and promised to increase investment in marketing and advertising. Barry Vickers, managing director of Holland & Barrett, said that the deal would enable the company to expand further, creating more employment opportunities.

Scott Rudolph, president of NBTY, said that the two businesses combined would produce sales of £260 million this year, with more than 500 retail stores and over 3,300 employees.

NBTY entered the UK market with Vitamin World, its mail-order business, in January this year.

The 400-strong Holland & Barrett chain was bought as part of the £684 purchase of Lloyds Chemists, which was won by Gehe after a year-long bid battle with UniChem.

Among the contendors bidding for Holland & Barrett were three sets of venture capitalists and a team led by Barry Dale, the former chief executive of Littlewoods, who was backed by Dawnay Day, the Australian Bank that also backed his unsuccessful £1 billion bid for Littlewoods.

Holland & Barrett was acquired by Lloyds Chemists in 1991 when it had 191 stores and annual sales of £48 million. In the year to June 1996, it reported operating profits of £7.8 million on sales of £90.6 million.

Byatt seeks clear view on water dividends

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

THE WATER regulator yesterday accused the industry of failing to fully disclose details of how companies fund dividend payments.

Ian Byatt delivered an ultimatum to companies to come clean about dividends payments, which have been controversially high, by showing how much of the payouts to shareholders come from the regulated buinesses.

Waterwatch, the lobby group, last week revealed that customers of North West Water contibuted an average of £93 each towards the dividends paid to United Utilities, North West's parent company.

Mr Byatt threw out statements from all the water companies on dividend make-up and threatened them with licence amendments if they fail to provide sufficient detail.

Mr Byatt criticised the industry several weeks ago for "unsustainably high" payouts. With sums having often been raised more than 15 per cent, he said he was concerned that investment levels should not suffer because of large returns to shareholders.

The regulator also attacked the water companies for their estimates on how much they will depreciate their fixed assets. He said the figures could be above actual needs. He has demanded fresh information by next month, for the watchdog's annual overview.

Water companies have been attacked for high returns to shareholders from consumer groups and the Labour Party when it was in opposition. The sector was particularly hard hit by the windfall tax.

The Water Services Association denied withholding information. It said: "The Director-General's guidance to water companies on how they should complete their annual returns does not ask for the information he now says he wants."

☐ Anglian Water may be allowed to supply sewerage to a former RAF site in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, in a move that would signal a major development of competition in sewerage. The site is now supplied by Severn Trent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Company phone number revamp

BUSINESS telephone numbers could be easier to remember under plans announced by Oftel, the telecommunications watchdog. Under the proposals, companies and public organisations will be able to choose to change their current numbers to one prefixed with a 05 regardless of where they are in the country. The number will be followed by three digits that will identify the company and six more to get the individual line.

Oftel said the changes would benefit businesses and customers. "Companies will be easily identified by their 05 code, they will keep the same number even if they change operator and they will have the same number even for their offices in different parts of the country." The 05 scheme will be voluntary and numbers will be available for distribution from 1998. Oftel hopes the scheme will be running by 1999. Don Cruickshank, director-general of telecommunications at Oftel, said: "These plans are in response to clear customer demand."

HSBC to meet Saracen

HSBC Asset Management said yesterday that it will meet the board of Saracen Value, the smaller companies investment trust, on Monday. HSBC is seeking to oust SFM Investment Management as managers of the underperforming trust. It claims the support of 50 per cent of Saracen shareholders for a possible extraordinary meeting motion that could lead to the replacement of the board. The board of Saracen yesterday asked shareholders not to take action before receiving proposals from the company.

DBS pension provision

DBS Management, the financial planning group, said it is considering increasing its provision against pensions mis-selling costs yesterday. The Huddersfield company has set aside £420,000 to cover the costs of the clear-up. Changes made in the Budget, and pressure from regulators to speed up the process, have made the operation more expensive. The company is awaiting a fine from the Personal Investment Authority that could be as much as £500,000 for slowness in resolving mis-selling cases.

Vickers in $14m disposal

VICKERS, the engineering group, has sold Jered Brown Brothers, an American subsidiary, to a private investment group and management vehicle for $14.3 million (£9.01 million) made up of $7.3 million cash and $7 million in loan notes. Jered Brown, which specialises in naval and commercial systems design, engineering, manufacturing and service, was acquired by Vickers in 1980. Sir Colin Chandler, Vickers chairman, said that the sale formed part of Vickers' strategy of streamlining its portfolio.

Astra below forecasts

ASTRA, the Swedish pharmaceuticals company with substantial operations in Britain, raised pre-tax profits from SKr6.756 billion to SKr7.014 billion (£547 million), below stock market forecasts. Sales were up from SKr19.1 billion to SKr21.5 billion. Earnings per share rose from SKr2.94 to Skr3.07. The company said price changes had not affected sales growth during the first half. Sales growth during the second quarter was 16 per cent up on the first-quarter. Research and development costs rose 22 per cent to Skr3.992 billion.

Bid made unconditional

A BID by Forbes, South Africa's largest insurance group, for Nelson Hurst, the insurance broker, was declared wholly unconditional yesterday. The move came after Forbes revealed that it had received acceptances of 89.33 per cent for its £84 million bid. Nelson Hurst shares were unchanged at 178½p in the market yesterday against the South African company's bid terms of 185p a share. Forbes is believed to want to take over Nelson Hurst to take advantage of its Asian and Latin American networks.

Danish group acquires Borthwicks

By Clare Stewart

DANISCO, the Danish food group has made an agreed £36.6 million bid for Borthwicks, maker of food and drinks flavourings used in products ranging from St Ivel Shape to Thorntons Chocolates and Hellmann's Mayonnaise.

News of the offer sent shares in Borthwicks to a record high, climbing 17½p to 61½p. Danisco, is offering 63p for each Borthwicks share. The Danish group has agreed to buy or has received offer acceptances in respect of 54.8 per cent of the Borthwicks shares.

Last month at the annual meeting, Borthwicks revealed it was in takeover talks with a number of parties, sending the shares sharply higher. Yesterday Peter Brackenridge, chairman of Borthwicks, said: "The offer delivers value for shareholders and is good for its employees and its customers." He added that the food ingredients and flavourings industry was undergoing consolidation, "and Borthwicks needs to be part of that". The product range of the two companies, Danisco said, was complementary and the deal would allow it to expand its UK and US sales.

Borthwicks which reported pre-tax profits of £1.5 million for the year to March 1997 employs 324 people in the UK and USA. The group yesterday added that its recent contract to supply Dunkin Donuts in the US has exceeded original expectations.

Danisco, listed in Denmark, supplies sweeteners and ingredients to the food industry internationally. Danisco's group pre-tax profits for the year to April were £184 million, including operating profits of £44 million in its ingredients division.

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Memory signs US digital camera deal

By Adam Jones

MEMORY Corporation, the electronics company quoted on the Alternative Investment Market that was badly burnt by oversupply in computer chips, reported improved interim profits yesterday.

It also announced a new deal to promote its technology in digital cameras and other consumer electronics, helping to push the shares up from 28½p to 35p. Memory licenses and sells technology that repairs memory units in computers and electronic equipment. Its share price reached 554p in 1995.

In the first half of the year, the company incurred a loss of £1.2 million before tax, compared with a loss of £3.2 million. Turnover rose 186 per cent from the previous 6 months to £2.8 million.

The agreement announced yesterday with a division of Micron Technology, the US chipmaker, enables the pair to collaborate in product areas such as digital cameras. Bill Hipp, chairman, would not say how much the agreement is likely to be worth. He said the first revenues from a licensing deal with a big US electronics manufacturer should come through this half-year.

No interim dividend will be paid.

Bus 'bandits' force Stagecoach retreat

By Fraser Nelson

STAGECOACH, the transport company, is retreating from Malawi in the face of competition from local "bus bandits" whom, it says, are poaching its business using inferior minibuses.

It has sold its 51 per cent holding in Stagecoach Malawi, bought from BAT Industries for £800,000 eight years ago, to a government-owned company for a nominal sum.

Keith Cochrane, finance director of Stagecoach, said that the company had suffered competition for 18 months with the relaxation of regulation. He added: "We have full-[illegible] buses in an environment which is becoming increasingly indiscriminating when you have Japanese-style minibuses picking up people at any street corner. It's taking away all your business.

"The problems there were getting worse and they were taking up increasingly large amounts of management time. So we decided this was the right time to let it go."

He said the problem was isolated and had not prompted any second thoughts on other overseas operations. He added: "Kenya has always had competition, but not these sort of tiny operators we have seen in Malawi."

STUDENT LOANS COMP[illegible]IMITED
NOTICE OF VARIATION OF [illegible]EST RATE

Regulations made under the Education (Student Loans) Act 1990 (as amended) ("the Act") and the Education (Student Loans) (Northern Ireland) Order 1990 ("the Order") have prescribed that the interest applicable to Loan Agreements under the Act or Order shall, in respect of the period from 1 September 1997 be the rate of interest per day which, taking into account the addition of interest to the principal amount of the loan, will result in an APR of 2.6%. That rate of interest per day is 0.007039786% per day.

Accordingly Student Loans Company Limited **HEREBY GIVES NOTICE** that with effect from 1 September 1997 the **RATE OF INTEREST** under all such Loan Agreements is varied (in respect of the period from 1 September 1997) by being **REDUCED** from the present interest rate of 0.007307268% per day **TO THE NEW INTEREST RATE** of 0.007039786% per day (variable **APR 2.6%**)

Go-ahead for clinical trials of eye drug

A DRUG that could prevent blindness in people who suffer serious eye injuries was approved yesterday for clinical trials by the UK Medicines Control Agency (Chris Ayres writes).

The drug, which is believed to stop damaging scar tissue forming in the eye after surgery, has been developed by Cambridge Technology Group, which floated on the stock exchange in March, valued at £109 million.

It is estimated that more than 100,000 patients in North America and Europe could benefit from the treatment every year.

John Aston, finance director, said: "This is very important for us because it is the first product we have carried forward into trials ourselves."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.26	2.09
Austria Sch	21.56	19.90
Belgium Fr	63.54	58.58
Canada $	2.318	2.130
Cyprus Cyp£	0.903	0.831
Denmark Kr	11.71	10.82
Finland Mkk	9.28	8.53
France Fr	10.32	9.54
Germany Dm	3.09	2.84
Greece Dr	484	445
Hong Kong $	13.00	11.80
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.15	1.06
Israel Shk	5.66	5.23
Italy Lira	3029	2792
Japan Yen	199.63	182.10
Malta	0.658	0.609
Netherlds Gld	3.463	3.168
New Zealand $	2.64	2.40
Norway Kr	12.80	11.88
Portugal Esc	308.03	286.00
S Africa Rd	8.09	7.13
Spain Pta	257.79	239.00
Sweden Kr	13.36	12.26
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.32
Turkey Lira	267157	247279
USA $	1.683	1.540

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

FULL STEAM AHEAD?

"There was lots of cheering and clapping when the market went through 5,000," says one strategist.
"But the old hands, sitting on the desks trading stocks, can see the unreality of it all . . ."

Business, The Sunday Times tomorrow

BASE RATE

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: PETER OWEN

Healthcare boss who races away the stress

Martin Waller meets a businessman who has competed on some of the greatest tracks — a far cry from his day job running PPP

CHRIS HARRIS

Peter Owen regularly clears his desk on a Friday evening and jets off to a foreign capital, ready for a weekend of racing at Spa or Monza

AS THE crowds poured out of Silverstone at the end of the British Grand Prix, one man was hurtling round the track, clad in helmet and racing overalls, throwing his high-powered Ford Mustang into the curves. For the thousands of spectators streaming through the exits — or zooming overhead by helicopter — the race was an afterthought; trailing in the twilight of the day's festivities. It might lack the glamour of Formula One, but for Peter Owen, the man behind the wheel, nothing could have been sweeter. He managed third place.

Owen, 50, embraces his hobby with a passion. He has raced on some of the world's great racetracks — a far cry from his day job running PPP Healthcare, one of the biggest names in the fiercely competitive private healthcare market. Based in and around London, with a home near Hampton Court, he regularly clears his desk on a Friday evening, and jets off to a foreign capital, ready for a weekend's racing at Spa or Monza. After a week of meetings, dinners; and all the other strings that go with running a major company, it is the ultimate stress-reliever.

Healthcare experts predict sweeping changes in the provision of medical care in the UK. The idea of a cradle-to-grave health service, funding the treatment of all ailments suffered by rich or poor, will have to go the same way as the notion of a guaranteed standard of living into old age. Companies such as PPP, and Bupa, the market leader, are at a disadvantage, says Owen, because the public does not need to buy the product — yet. If there is a perception, at last, that the state pension will not be enough, this motivates people to approach companies providing an alternative.

But if we all expect to rely on the NHS for life's medical crises, albeit after a long wait and in conditions that are far from luxurious, then what impetus is there to pay for medical care oneself? Put it this way and it makes more sense that the head of Britain's second largest private healthcare business is a man with 30 years' experience in marketing and virtually no medical expertise.

Owen spends much of his week as a passenger in a very different type of vehicle — a chauffeur-driven BMW. He spends two or three days a week at PPP's London office, with another day at the office in Tunbridge Wells, and the rest of his time visiting offices around Britain. At his desk by 7.45am, he spends much of his day in meetings, reads a great deal, and typically gives up three evenings a week to work-related functions.

Work inevitably encroaches into weekends — when he is not racing — although Owen is keen to make time for his family. His wife, Ruth, works in human resources for Reed-Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group. Owen relates this with evident pride, saying: "She's got the really tough job, managing a career, and managing my career as well."

They have three children: Nicolas, 21, who is reading politics at Manchester; Laura, 19, who is reading English and history at London University; and Matthew, 10, who — predictably — is still enjoying life at home. Work aside, evenings bring ballet and the opera, and there are wonderful holidays — skiing trips to the Rockies, visits to Switzerland at Christmas, and tennis excursions.

Owen joined PPP in 1994 and decided three things needed to be done — and fast. It is now two down and one to go, the last on schedule to be completed by the end of the year. It is significant that first on the list is the £30 million he and the Saatchi brothers spent rebranding the business, which used to trade under the name of Private Patients Plan. Sounds reasonable, given that it was in the business of providing an insurance plan for private patients, surely?

"The name is quite symbolic," he says, slipping effortlessly into that sub-branch of the English language used by marketing people. "It shows the different emphasis and it reflects what our customers want from us and the value-added services they want. What the brand is saying is that we're not just an insurance company. When you are in need of support, we are there. There will be a whole range of input mechanisms available, a health line, regular check-ups, dentistry, long-term care. You have a relationship with us not merely by making a claim."

> ❝ I don't like Grand Tours of offices. I prefer to talk to small groups ❞

It is easy to poke fun at such linguistic contortions and at the notion that someone in dire need of medical attention is concerned at the nature of his or her relationship with the provider of the same. But further expansion for PPP is going to come down to persuading large numbers of people that they need its services. If so, the wiles of the marketing man, rather than the skills of the GPs who set the business up as a provident institution after the Second World War, will be needed.

"I don't think any business requires somebody to be the line-expert to run it," he says. "You could argue it's better to have somebody with broad-based skills rather than an enthusiast."

His second job at PPP was to expand the range of medical services available direct to his customers by buying half-stakes in four hospitals for £100 million. To achieve this, and to raise the necessary capital on attractive rates, meant scrapping the original provident structure under which nobody actually owned the business. Instead PPP became a limited company owned by a trust that has the twin aim of supporting the company and a new medical research and training charity.

The third need is a way of getting PPP's products through to potential customers by improving the distribution base. Again a task more suited to one familiar with a spread-sheet than a stethoscope, this will need a link with a financial services business, or possibly a retailer that will showcase PPP's products. This brings with it dangers. PPP's new structure makes it effectively bid-proof, but the distribution link will require the surrender of some of the equity, although not a majority stake. "We're not for sale," Owen says. "But we need to find a way of efficiently getting our products to market."

A straight joint venture might seem the easiest course, his company providing the insurance package and a partner the distribution. But this leaves the risk that the latter, having picked up the skills of underwriting in the insurance market, might one day cast PPP aside. "That's why I'm looking for a more enduring partnership in terms of distribution. We need to look at the actual strength of the relationship we have with that business and devise a structure that allows us to develop strategically if we want to while giving them the confidence to stick with us. What we won't do is to enter into a relationship with somebody that leaves us vulnerable for the future."

A large, imposing figure, sometimes taken to wearing disconcertingly casual dress, he knows he is tiptoeing through a political minefield in putting up an alternative to the NHS. He is also aware that he may not be the most patient or tactful guide through such territory.

He learnt marketing at British Airways, arriving at PPP after a brief spell running Aer Lingus, the Irish airline.

"It would be true to say I'm not a terribly patient person" — this from a man whose way of relaxing is racing sports cars. "The fact is, there isn't a lot of time. You do have to march on," he says. It is not an easy task for someone of this type to walk into an organisation such as PPP, with its own entrenched culture, and shake it up as he has done. Indeed, one of his first jobs was to engineer the departure, "reasonably painlessly", of 40 per cent of the senior and middle managers. "It's a very difficult tightrope to walk, between getting people to have the satisfaction of performing beyond what they thought was possible and at the same time not allowing change to cause chaos."

His life, he accepts, is tied up as much as any executive in endless rounds of meetings. "You do need meetings. The important thing is to make them as short as possible. I don't like wandering around on a Grand Tour of the offices. I prefer to talk to small groups of staff. I can be very frank with them. But nobody in this organisation gets clobbered for saying what they think."

Owen is not complacent about the further changes that will be needed at PPP if the Government does grasp the nettle and introduce some statutory requirement for a personal contribution towards healthcare costs. His best forecast is of a "reverse means test" whereby well-off individuals are gradually required to contribute something.

But there has already been significant change. "In the 1980s, Private Patients Plan (the previous name) followed a very successful strategy, which was to allow Bupa to become the generic in private medical insurance. Given the phenomenal growth that occurred in the 1980s, it was a very effective strategy to ride on Bupa's coat-tails.

"Come the recession and a plethora of newcomers to the business, the very low voice of PPP began to be a problem." Bizarrely, a survey of existing customers a few years ago found that one in five had never even heard of the company, having been put in by their employers. Clearly not a state of affairs acceptable to a marketing man. But this went hand-in-hand with a degree of administrative inefficiency, in particular in signing up new customers.

"If you had the stamina to last the course in terms of joining us, you were a pretty good bet," he jokes. "It was worth signing you up on the spot."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Ashes call

A WOEFUL tale reaches me from the fair metropolis of Perth in Western Australia. Don Inglis, an Englishman who has spent the past decade in exile with James Capel, was in line for the ultimate fortieth birthday present — a ticket to the Test match against Australia at the Oval on August 21.

Keen to make an impact, his friends in England arranged for the ticket to be delivered by a strippagram, dressed as a policewoman, who was to serve Inglis with fake conscription papers, handcuff him, and drag him off. Her lines included: "The Barmy Army herewith conscripts you to return home to see, for the last time this century, England trashing the Convicts on home soil. Book your passage home and bring The Ashes with you."

Sadly, Kevin Johnson, a fellow Capel director, failed to see the humorous side, and scuppered the whole thing — spoilsport. Inglis got his ticket by more conventional means, and is now trying to swing a flight home. This is Johnson's chance to make amends.

● *WESTMINSTER Strategy, long-time adviser to Sir Andrew Large at the Securities and Investments Board, is the first victim of the shift to a new over-arching regime. Its contract is not being renewed at the end of the month.*

"There's a fixed rate of five minutes for talking about mortgage increases"

Talk, talk

WHAT we've always suspected: directors of UK companies waste more than two hours of their working day as a result of colleague interruptions and other hassles, according to a survey by The Athenaeum Hotel and Apartments, that reputable establishment in Piccadilly. Respondents deemed meetings unprofitable and time-wasting — but perhaps location has something to do with it. The question — "Where is the strangest place you have ever held a meeting?" — threw up some oddities, with accountants citing a curling rink and a monastery.

Someone in advertising referred to an encounter in a car park at Polo in Windsor. Answers from lawyers included: an asylum, my bedroom, driving to a poker game, and attending a rodeo in a market town in Chile. Property folk have held meetings in a caravan park in the Isle of Wight, an Afro-Caribbean club in Moss Side, Manchester, and in Stringfellows. Where else?

Futuristic

WATTS WACKER, billed as one of the world's leading futurists (those people who predict trends, apparently), has just flown back to America, fresh from promoting his new book, *The 500 Year Delta* (Capstone, £15.99), co-written with Jim Taylor.

Wacker specialises in writing 500-year business plans for corporations such as Coca-Cola and Walt Disney. Alarmingly, his UK clients are said to include BP and British Telecom, neither of which has exactly had a brilliant press of late. "The good thing about a 500-year business plan is that you don't have to turn it out right away," he enthuses. Tell that to Sir Peter Bonfield.

Musical bet

HAT'S off to Tony Pitt, who has just clocked up 40 years as an underwriter at Lloyd's of London, where his speciality is not satellites, or Naomi Campbell's legs, but musical instruments. Pitt, who works for Archer Group's non-marine syndicate 544, has insured instruments used by the Rolling Stones, Emerson Lake & Palmer, and even the Who — with no exclusion on deliberate smashing. One of his most unusual requests came from an Italian count, eager to insure his daughter's honour during a visit to England.

Probably his most famous "risk", however, was the giant inflatable pig used by Pink Floyd on the cover of its album *Animals*. As older rockers will recall, the beast broke free from its mooring at Battersea Power Station and soared into the heavens. "It caused quite an incident at Heathrow," recalls Pitt, who has been toasting his milestone in champagne. "A pilot radioed in to say he had just passed a pink pig at 10,000 feet. They thought he was drunk." The pig landed in a pig farm in Kent. Pitt had to stump up £220 to repair a puncture. Cheap at the price.

● *SECURICOR'S attempt to be more open with the City appears to have left brokers unimpressed. The company has sent out invites to visit its new prison at Bridgend, Glamorgan, on August 19. Not surprisingly, the brokers do not seem to be in any rush to take up the offer.*

JON ASHWORTH

An inflatable pig, insured by Tony Pitt, broke free from Battersea Power Station

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THE TIMES

THE TIMES CHALLENGE OF THE MIND

To coincide with the first Mind Sports Olympiad, *The Times* invites you to test your wits with our Challenge of the Mind competition. Every day for two weeks we will be setting a range of puzzles to get you thinking. And we have £10,000 worth of prizes to be won. For further details of the Mind Sports Olympiad, at the Royal Festival Hall, London, from August 18 to 24, and how to enter, call **0171-703 2828**.

£500 LINES OF ACTION PROBLEM by Paul Lamford*

Today's puzzle is based on the two-player game, *Lines of Action*, which is popular in the US where it is often played by correspondence. It is played on an 8x8 board (a draughts board will do). The players are Black and White and each has 12 counters of the appropriate colour. A turn consists of moving a man of one's own colour. All pieces move in a straight line in any direction (like a queen in chess) EXACTLY the number of squares there are pieces of both colours in that line. A piece can move over friendly pieces but not over enemy pieces, although it can land on an enemy piece, thereby capturing it, in which case it is removed from the game. The object is to get all your pieces linked, orthogonally or diagonally, in a single group.

Try your hand at the following problem in which both sides are very close to getting a linked group. Black is to play. One piece has been captured on each side. Black has a move that guarantees winning next turn.

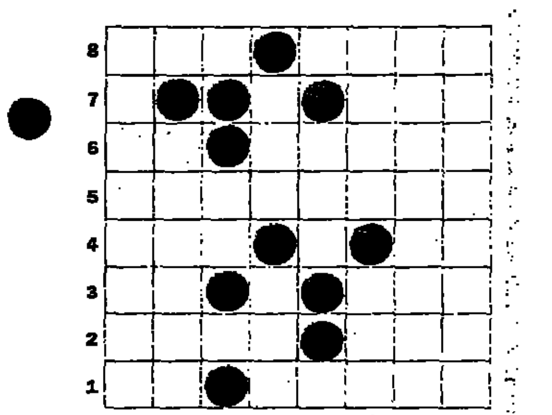
What should Black play.

Is it?

a) d8-d5, capturing the white checker

b) e7-c5, capturing the white checker

c) c1-b2, connecting the stray checker to the bottom black group



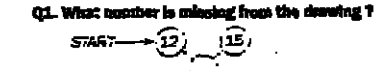
Call **0891 102 724** (ex UK 44 990 200 618) before midnight tomorrow with your answer, a, b or c. The winner will get £500 and three runners-up will receive a £50 voucher, donated by Hamleys, for use in its Regent Street or Covent Garden, London, stores. Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received and the answer will be published on Wednesday. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

Hamleys

£10,000 worth of prizes to be won with Challenge of the Mind

TEN MINUTE MENSA PROBLEM

Q1. What number is missing from the drawing ?



Q2. How far has the minute hand on a clock travelled if the hand is 7 centimetres long and 19 minutes 6 seconds has elapsed ?

Q3. Whose name is contained in
WE ALL MAKE HIS PRAISE (7 & 11) ?

There's £100 to be won today with this ten-minute Mensa teaser. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tomorrow. **Call 0891 102 725** (ex UK +44 990 200 619). 0891 calls cost 50p per minute.

All readers who get two or three of today's Mensa puzzles correct will receive a certificate and a Mensa information pack which includes a home IQ assessment test.

THE MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

*Paul Lamford is a former editor of *Games and Puzzles* magazine and is currently commissioning editor of chess and bridge for Batsford Books

DAY 4 (THURSDAY) SOLUTIONS.

GO: answer e was correct. Black should play at A. He will then be able to capture the white stones later in the game by surrounding them completely and removing them. At some stage Black will completely surround the five white stones and then play a further black stone on the intersection immediately to the right of the stone he played at A. White can capture these two stones by playing in the bottom left-hand corner, but Black persists by playing another stone at A, and if this is captured, when Black plays again at A he captures all five white stones. Mrs M Parsons, of Bude, Cornwall, wins £500.

MENSA PROBLEM: 1 450 — a clock with no decimal point plus 50 minutes each time. 2 Schoolmaster (anagram). 3 Answer is 1/4 (one quarter). Philip Carter, of London W2, wins £100.

Don't miss the 16-page Mind Sports Olympiad supplement free with Monday's paper

ON MONDAY: PLAY GIN RUMMY FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN MORE PRIZES

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Sterling decline prompts buyers to switch sights

THERE appears to have been a notable and much needed sea change in investment strategy among City investors this week.

No longer is the whole market dancing to the tune of the banks and drug companies. Instead, it is the manufacturers and exporters — especially among the second liners — that are now leading the way.

Reassuring words from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, on Thursday that interest rates had risen far enough, for the time being, seemed to do the trick. Sterling went into immediate decline against the mark and other European currencies, allowing manufacturers a collective whoop of delight.

It also prompted fund managers to cast their nets further afield, trying their hand at a spot of "bottom fishing" in search of better value.

Yesterday's bout of profit-taking in London, which coincided with a 71-point fall in the Dow Jones industrial average and a further loss of 160 points last night, seemed inevitable. The FTSE 100 index closed above its worst of the session with a fall of 55.5 at 5,031.3. But the gain on the week is 132 points.

By sharp contrast the FTSE 250 was 50.9 higher at 4,649.3, adding weight to the theory that the bull market has started to spill over into the second liners.

The market has surged 24 per cent since the start of the year, fuelled by the performance of both the banks and the drugs companies. But it is likely to emerge in the months ahead that the performance of most fund managers has been pedestrian.

Inevitably, the rush for second liners, especially those with exposure to a strong pound, and the scattergun approach adopted by investors caught market-makers short of stock on the hop. Leading the way was **Low & Bonar**, 25p up, or 11.5 per cent, at 241p, followed by **Yule Catto**, 35p to 338½p, **Scapa**, 21p to 216½p, **Allied Colloids**, 9½p to 132½p, **Delta**, 14p to 310p, **BTG**, 29½p to 681½p, **Williams Holdings**, 15p to 348½p, **Courtaulds**, 14½p to 342p, and **Laporte**, 31½p to 739p.

The weaker pound also brought some relief to blue chips, with **LucasVarity** rising 21½p to 217½p. **Smiths Industries** 37p to 870½p, **Tomkins** 12½p to 334½p, **TI Group** 22p to 615½p, **GKN** 39p to £12.26½, **RMC Group** 32½p to £11.05, **British Aerospace** 45½p to £14.86, and **Siebe** 28p to £11.54.

British Telecom also stood out with a rise of 10½p to 426½p in heavy turnover that saw 81 million shares change hands. The shares are due to go ex the ordinary and special dividend of 46.9p on Monday.

Rank Group clawed back some of this week's losses with a rise of 7½p to 347½p as it splashed out almost £143 million buying back its own shares. BZW and NatWest picked up 41.4 million shares, almost 5 per cent of the equity, at 345p. The company has committed itself to spending £300 million buying back up to 84 million shares. Rank fell sharply on Thursday after results failed to live up to expectations.

Glynwed International raced ahead 10p to 258½p ahead of half-year figures on Tuesday. It has been enjoying something of a revival on the weaker pound, although the figures are likely to reveal a pedestrian performance from the group. The str[illegible] pound and continued w[illegible]ss in a number of its traditional markets are expected to show profits just 3 per cent ahead at £40.7 million. The dividend is forecast to grow by 7 per cent to 4.7p net.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson was happy to give the building sector a bit of a helping hand on further reflection of the view that interest rates had peaked. Alex Cobbold, analyst, has also concluded that house prices in the South East still had some catching up to do despite fears about inflationary pressures.

He remains selective. **CRH**, up 37½p at 669p, is heavily sought after and "buy" recommendations also feature with **Berkeley Group**, 14p dearer at 712½p, and **Crest Nicholson**, all square at 103p. Those still on the "sell" list include **Bryant Group**, down 2½p at 138½p, and **Persimmon**, up 11p at 243½p. **Blue Circle Industries** also sported a gain of 20½p at 447p after he moved from "hold" to "buy".

The banks rounded off a notable week on a flat note as the profit-takers moved in. **Barclays**, which had seen its price soar by more than £1 on Thursday on the back of better than expected figures and the share buy back, ended 26½p lower at £14.21. There were also losses for **Abbey National**, 11½p at 846p, **HSBC**, 40½p at £22.86, **Halifax**, 13½p at 733p, **Lloyds TSB**, 24½p at 753½p, **Royal Bank of Scotland**, 20p at 629½p, **Standard Chartered**, 20p at £10.61½ and **Woolwich**, 6p at 298½p. **Alliance & Leicester**, unveiling maiden figures on Friday, lost 8p at 609p.

The drug companies also came under selling pressure, reflecting a similar sell-off overnight among their counterparts in the US, where ratings have been reaching dizzy heights. **Glaxo Wellcome** dropped 38p to £12.87½, **SmithKline Beecham** 30½p to £11.67½ and **Zeneca** 62p to £19.90½.

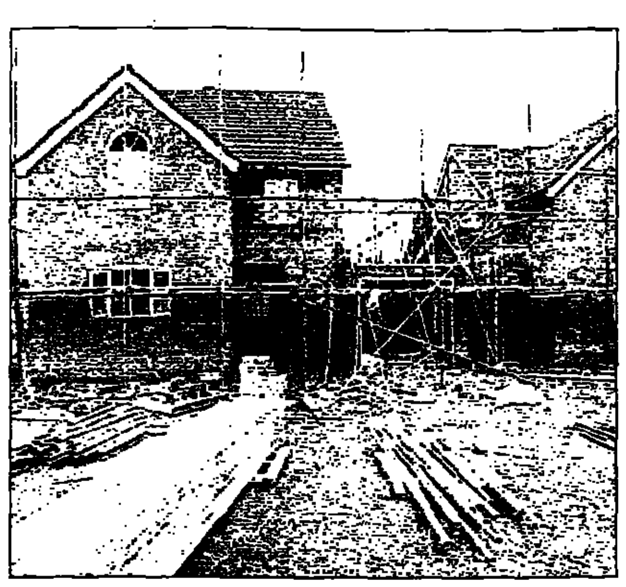
Wassall advanced 21p to 313p on talk that it is to sell its 25 per cent stake in the General Cable Corporation.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** A sharp sell-off overnight that left US Treasury bonds nursing falls of $¾ took its toll on the London bond market. The pound's losses against both the dollar and the mark also undermined sentiment.

In futures, the September series of the long gilt fell £⅞ to £114 9/32 as the total number of contracts completed reached 105,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2021 dropped £1 1/32 to £111 1/32, while Treasury 6 per cent 1999 was £⅛ easier at £98¼.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares buckled at midday, suffering steep losses as rapidly rising long-term bond yields created market tremors about the possibility of higher interest rates. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 127.52 at 8,060.48.



Builders CRH and Berkeley rose on broker support

BAT Industries fell 5½p to 508½p. NatWest S[illegible]es, the broker, remains cautious after the recent decisio[illegible] the dividend. The Florida Medicaid case is giving caus[illegible] concern as does the future of its Chinese tobacco venture. N[illegible] West says the shares could fall by a further 10 per cent short-term.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Barclays Bank	£14.21	+127p	Figures/share buy-back
Country Casuals	110p	-23½p	Bid talks aborted
Pearson	777½p	+111½p	Doubling the value
British Petroleum	896p	+77½p	*Bumper profits*
Unilever	£19.20	+99½	American investors presentation
Chesterton Int	31p	-27p	Profits warning
ABI Leisure	61½p	-18½p	Profits warning
Borthwicks	61½p	+16½p	*Danisco bids 63p a share*
BOC Group	£11.75½	+63p	Zeneca wants to buy Ohmeda

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	8060.48 (-127.52)
S&P Composite	935.18 (-16.01)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	19604.46 (+128.61)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	16647.54 (-25.73)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	996.16 (-14.81)
Sydney:	
AO	2711.40 (-6.30)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4354.15 (-60.20)
Singapore:	
Straits	1943.92 (-9.32)
Brussels:	
General	13834.81 (-250.79)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2996.27 (-60.07)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1229.70 (7.30)
London:	
FT 30	3216.3 (-6.0)
FTSE 100	5031.3 (-55.5)
FTSE 250	4650.5 (+52.3)
FTSE 350	2415.8 (-16.5)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2773.83 (-20.97)
FTSE All-Share	2354.83 (-14.24)
FTSE Non Financials	2352.50 (-9.66)
FTSE Fixed Interest	125.30 (+8.71)
FTSE Govt Secs	96.50 (-0.60)
Bargains	60757
SEAQ Volume	1082.0m
US$	1.5787 (-0.0072)
German Mark	2.9249 (-0.0458)
Exchange Index	101.3 (-1.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4861
£:SDR	1.1914
RPI	157.5 Jun (2.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	156.7 Jun (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Billiton	234½	+ 6½
Blakes Clothing	72½	- 1
Bristol & West Prf	107	- 1¼
Cammell Laird	119½	+ 1
Delcam	267½	...
EMI B	115	...
Fairplace Consulting	¾	...
GR Holdings	65	...
Galen Holdings	194½	+ 1½
Gremlin Group	131½	- 2
Helicon Pubslg	102½	...
Ionica Group	383	+ ½
Kingfisher Leisure	175½	...
Metroline	212½	- 3
Reabourne Merlin	108½	...
SBS Group	106½	...
Ted Baker	138½	- 1
Thorn B	20½	...
Viglen Technology	61½	+ ½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Active Img n/p (10)	1	...
Fortune Oil n/p (11)	3	...
Golden Land n/p (21)	2½	...
Logica n/p (605)	202½	+ 40

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Cortecs	202½p (+24p)
Low & Bonar	241p (+25p)
Yule Catto	338½p (+35p)
Renishaw	280½p (+20p)
Wassall	313p (+21p)
Wilson (C)	181p (+11½p)
Blue Circle	447p (+20½p)
Laporte	739p (+31½p)
FALLS:	
Shell	443½p (-15p)
Tesco	416½p (-14p)
Ryl Bk Scot	629½p (-20p)
Cairn Energy	497½p (-15p)
Broken Hill	787p (-22½p)
Reuters	676p (-17p)
Whitbread	830p (-20p)
Legal & Gen	447p (-9½p)
BAA	565p (-10½p)
Halifax	733p (-13½p)
Gen Accident	939p (-16½p)
Bass	838½p (-13p)
Abbey Natl	846p (-11½p)

Closing Prices Page 37

TEMPUS

Coming clean on payouts

PRIVATISED water groups should publish up front the dividends which the parent companies receive from their regulated utility subsidiaries. The water regulator, should have no qualms about changing licences to make them do so if all else fails. General disclosure would force boards to treat the relationship between the utility and the group with more discipline.

This should eventually dispel some of the suspicions fuelled by secrecy over what is really going on, especially among the multi-utilities. Manouevres to transfer reserves to plc group level to replenish those exhausted by acquisitions have fuelled fears that some are raiding the utility's kitty.

Under the 1994 dispensation, water utilities were to be able to raise dividends by inflation plus 2 per cent a year. Any more has to come from beating efficiency targets or diversification. Wessex aside, new activities have generally been a minus. But most have managed to slice investment costs without resorting to standpipes. And under Ofwat's formula to cut "excess" returns, the plcs had five years to run down dividend cover.

Even so, 1996-97 dividend rises ranging from 13 per cent (Severn Trent) to 22 per cent (Thames) have peeved the regulator. Prospective rises averaging 13 per cent this year will not be in his script either.

As usual, fund managers want to make hay while the sun shines. All may be different after 1999. But excess is no better for investors than punitive regulation is for customers. After the windfall tax, water shares yield an average 5.7 per cent, which would be amazingly cheap if anyone thought such dividend growth was sustainable. No one does.

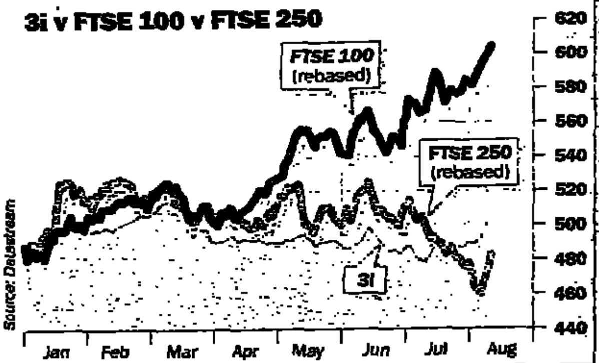
3i

THE pound buys 13 less pfennigs than it did three days ago, finally offering some relief to exporters and those that rely on them for business.

Some institutions yesterday were snapping up shares in the most obvious beneficiaries — the second tier of British companies that make up the FTSE 250. The mid-cap index had a rare good day this year, rising 52.3 points to 4650.5, while the FTSE 100 was falling. The small company effect also explains the 21p jump in 3i's share price to 482½p. Many of the small businesses the investment group backs are probably more dependent on the domestic economy, but it has still been unable to escape the backwash of underperformance.

The improvement in sentiment may prove transitory. While the Bank of England has suggested interest rates have already risen far enough, the current level of sterling still causes problems. Moreover, the upcoming results season will inevitably produce plenty of reminders of the harm already done. However, the extraordinary divergence between medium and small companies and the banks, oil and pharmaceutical companies within the FTSE 100 has probably come to an end.

Latest estimates of 3i's net asset value suggest its shares are once again at a premium. The composition of its portfolio and its growing European investments provide adequate justification. Hold.



Capital Corp

THE shareholders of Capital Corporation must hate Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade. Many of them are also shareholders in London Clubs and had been praying for the larger casino group's superior management to get to grips with the ailing Capital.

Only the hope of a bid from Ladbroke has stopped Capital shares falling further than yesterday's 165½p. And the stories filtering out of the group from disaffected former employees raise a series of questions about how Capital is run.

Capital has a series of critical reports produced by outside consultants last year, covering its gaming activities, its purchasing of wine, and its financial controls.

Among the issues that came to the fore were the theft of computers containing confidential information, massive over-ordering of food and whether the pension fund was properly audited. Alan Hearn, the group's chief executive, has said controls have been tightened. But, when one learns that the company makes administrative errors over the disclosure of the share dealings of its gaming director (who, by the way, was in charge during the period covered by the critical reports) one wonders just how much improvement Capital has made.

Ladbroke must think long and hard before deciding whether to bid. If it does, Mr Hearn would benefit his shareholders by running up the white flag to avoid further falls in Capital shares.

Memory Corp

MEMORY Corporation, the Scottish electronics company, has been pretty much ignored since the massive fall in its share price. The shares plunged from 554p in 1995 to about the 30p mark when the outrageous hopes for its computer chip repair technology proved just that. Smaller losses in the first half of 1997 were accompanied by visits to a couple of brokers yesterday to try to repair some bridges with the City.

Memory says it is on the brink of delivering on an order conditionally signed with an anonymous US company last year. And it says a tie-up with a big US chipmaker yesterday leaves it well placed to cash in on the digital camera market.

It also has technology for stopping chip theft from computers with an electronic poison pill that could be ready by the end of 1997.

But claims that Memory is now pretty much safe from another collapse in global chip prices — the source of its previous problems — remain untested since prices have remained relatively stable since new management came in. In the meantime, the company is heading for more losses this year. Still one to avoid.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Sep	1022-1020	Dec	1131-1131
Dec	1053-1052	Mar	1146-1144
Mar	*1072-1071*	*May*	*1164-1157*
May	1087-1086	Jul	unq
Jul	1104 SLR		
Sep	1121 BID		Volume 4794

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Sep	unq	May	1565 SLR
Nov		Jul	unq
Jan		Sep	
Mar	1575 SLR		Volume 3154

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		May	221.0-19.8
Spot: n/a		Aug	219.0-17.5
Oct	325.2-22.5	Oct	215.0-10.1
Dec	*321.7-19.7*	*Dec*	*314.9-10.0*
Mar	322.1-21.0		Volume 2667

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on August 7

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB.	77.35	72.22	101.70
(+/-)	-8.40	[illegible]	-2.19
Eng/Wales:	77.29	113.86	99.21
(+/-)	4.47	-2.11	+1.63
(%)	24.9	+10.0	-0.0
Scotland:	[illegible]	112.55	105.86
(+/-)	n/c	+5.29	+5.07
(%)	-20.0	+25.0	+3.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.50	-0.45
Brent 15 day (Sep)	18.70	-0.45
Brent 15 day (Oct)	18.85	-0.40
W Texas Intermediate (Sep)	20.00	-0.45
W Texas Intermediate (Oct)	20.15	-0.40

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	229 (+1)	232 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	170 (-4)	172 (-3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	91 (n/c)	95 (+1)
Naphtha	193 (-1)	196 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Aug	169.25-69.50	Nov	174.25-74.50
Sep	171.00-71.25	Dec	175.50 BID
Oct	172.50-72.75		Vol 17985

BRENT (6.00pm)

Sep	18.67-18.70	Dec	19.12 BID
Oct	18.85-18.87	Jan	19.12 BID
Nov	19.00 BID		Vol: 22579

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Sep	85.50	Sep	79.75
Nov	88.00	Nov	82.25
Jan	*90.00*	*Jan*	*84.25*
Mar	92.00	Mar	86.00
May	94.00	May	87.75
	Volume: 847		Volume: 207

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	62.0
Mar	—	104.0
Apr	120.0	121.0
		Volume: 51

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Aug 62.75-63.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Aug 97	1275	1265	1265
Sep 97	1330	1320	1325
Oct 97	1445	1440	1440
Jan 98	1460	1460	1460

Vol: 81 lots Open interest: 5067
Index 1280 -4

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	*Rudolf Wolff* Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2342.0-2343.0	2314.0-2315.0	104490
Lead ($/tonne)	600.50-601.00	616.00-617.00	41975
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1670.0-1675.0	1539.0-1541.0	1137325
Tin ($/tonne)	5570.0-5575.0	5615.0-5620.0	[illegible]
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1749.0-1749.5	1737.0-1737.5	2471200
Nickel ($/tonne)	7070.0-7075.0	7160.0-7165.0	99598

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Alld Dom	420	34	[illegible]	49½	[illegible]	17½	21½
(*441½)	460	13	22	29½	24	36½	42
ASDA	140	12½	16½	19	3	5	6½
(*150½)	160	2	7	9½	13	15½	16½
Boots	900	45	69½	92½	29½	40	44
(*909½)	950	23½	45½	56	52½	66½	70
Br Airways	600	60½	74	92½	10½	19½	23½
(*643½)	650	30	50½	65	29	39	44½
BP	800	39½	67½	79½	25	41½	46½
(*813)	850	29	44	55	55	66½	72½
Br Steel	160	14½	17½	21	4½	7½	8½
(*165½)	180	5	8½	11	14	14	19
C & W	600	29½	57	70½	27½	34	39
(*617)	650	17	34	47½	52½	61½	66
CU	700	34½	74	83½	37½	57½	62
(*715)	750	29½	51½	61	60½	81½	90
ICI	1050	75½	109½	120½	27	39½	53½
(*1105)	1100	49½	81	96½	49½	62	75½
Land Sec	900	64½	84	100½	12	20	23½
(*943½)	950	33	54	70	31	40	47½
M & S	550	62	72½	55	9½	17	15½
(*590)	600	29	41½	54	21½	29½	34½
Nat West	850	77	115½	129	32	55½	68½
(*892½)	900	51½	91½	103½	53½	79½	92½
Safeway plc	390	19	29	37	14	21½	25
(*391)	420	[illegible]	16	24	32	39½	42
Sainsbury	420	35	45	54	9½	15	18½
(*442)	460	14½	23½	33	29	34	37½
Shell	450	29	41½	—	17	25½	
(*459½)	500	10	21	29½	46	54	66
Smkl Bch	1200	146	160	172	50	73	88
(*1200½)	1250	44½	96	107	76	100	[illegible]
Storehse	300	-	—	—			
(unq)	330	—	-	-	-	-	—
Trafalgar	50	—					—
(unq)	60	—					—
Zeneca	2000	122	182	205	54	67	119
(*2042½)	2100	76	130	152	107	136	162
	Series	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Apr**
BAT Ind	500	29½	54	61	24	33	42
(*514)	550	16	32½	39½	54½	61½	70
Vodafone	300	27	35	41½	6	13	15
(*317)	330	11½	20	26	20½	27	29½
	Series	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**
Grnd Met	550	31	[illegible]	92	0½	9	19½
(*580)	600	13	37½	41	12	20½	39
Ladbroke	240	15	25½	30	1½	7½	6½
(*253½)	260	4	13	20	6½	17	18½
Utd Bisc	220	1½	24	29	11	4	6½
(*218)	240	3½	12	18	3½	12½	14½

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
BAA	550	42	55½	65½	[illegible]	17	16½
(*577)	600	16	29½	39½	31½	41½	42
Thames W	750	59	74	87½	16	24½	29
(*787½)	800	32	47	60	34½	47	51½
	Series	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**
BTR	190	17½	25½	27½	0½	7	8½
(*198)	200	4½	13	18	7	10½	12½
Br Aero	1400	48	96	120½	8½	41½	52
(*1437½)	1450	15	67½	103	29	66½	75½
Br Telecom	380	27	39	46	6	11½	23
(*419½)	420	9	24½	31½	21½	33	36½
Cadbury	600	27	46	62	4	19	25
(*621½)	650	3	22½	37	30	45½	56½
Guinness	550	46	66½	72	1	12	14
(*590)	600	9½	29	41	13	29½	36
GEC	390	10	24½	34	4½	16½	20
(*395)	420	1	12	20	25	32½	36
Hanson	300	15½	28	36½	1	9	13
(*312)	330	2	12½	21½	14½	25	29
LASMO	280	10½	23	31	3½	9	13½
(*287½)	300	1	13½	20	14½	19½	23½
LucasVarity	200	9	17	25½	1½	8	10
(*207)	220	1	8½	14½	13½	16½	21
Pilkingtn	140	6½	—	—	2	—	—
(*143½)	160	0½	—	—	16½	—	—
Prudential	600	24	40½	51½	8	30	40
(*612½)	650	3½	21½	31	38	56	67
Redland	300	17	24½	33½	2	11½	14
(*308½)	330	1½	10½	20	21½	29½	31
R-Royce	240	16½	25½	32½	1	9	11½
(*255)	260	4	14½	22	8	18	20½
Tesco	420	15½	31	42	4	15	20
(*431)	460	1	11½	25	29	33½	42
Williams	330	-	—	—	—	-	—
(unq)	360	—	—	-			

FTSE INDEX (*5032)

	4950	5000	5050	5100	5150	5200
Calls						
Aug	172½	126½	86½	54½	31½	15½
Sep	230	192	160	131	105½	83
Oct	272	236	206	177	148	129½
Nov	312	281½	249½	219½	190½	168½
Dec	—	329½	—	256½	—	196½
Puts						
Aug	9	15½	27½	47	92½	119½
Sep	55	69	87½	109½	133½	162½
Oct	82	96	118	139½	160½	188
Nov	107	126	144	164	186	214½
Dec	—	137½	—	179½	—	228

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Abby Natl	850	50	82	94½	45½	61½	72½
(*857½)	900	29½	59½	72	75	89	101½
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1450	83	138	156½	76	106	123½
(*1451)	1500	61	113	132½	105	134	150
Natl Pwr	500	57	68	73	8	16½	17
(*540½)	550	28	39½	44	25	34½	37½
	Series	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Apr**
Glaxo Well	1300	74½	115	136½	46½	64	77½
(*1333½)	1350	50	93	111½	71½	88	100½
HSBC	2300	128½	200½	257	97½	134	161½
(*2331½)	2400	61½	157	206	142½	184½	211½
Reuters	650	62½	83	93½	11½	23	29
(*691½)	700	31	54	65	31	44	51
Royal & Sun	500	52	71	77½	12	21½	26
(*545½)	550	23½	42½	49½	33	43½	49
	Series	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**
Blue Circ	420	[illegible]	24	33½	[illegible]	15½	22
(*421½)	460	1	9½	16	39½	44½	47½
	Series	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**
Kingfishr	700	27	53	67½	7	27	32
(*719)	750	5½	32	44	34	50½	56
	Series	**Jun**			**Jun**		
Br Gas	240	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	260	-	—	—	—	—	—
	Series	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Mar**
Dixons	600	27½	51	62½	21	32	37
(*606)	650	10	31	39½	51½	62	64½
EMI Group	550	18½	50	72	12	23½	28½
(*570)	575	23½	45½	58	23½	36	41
Tarmac	110	11½	14	17	1½	4	5
(*118½)	120	5½	9½	12½	5	8½	10
Hillsdwn	140	10½	—	—	0½	—	—
(*157½)	160	5½	—	—	6	—	—
Lonrho	120	8½	13½	16½	3	4½	7½
(*124½)	130	5	8½	11½	6	8½	12½
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	300	22	29½	32½	3½	8½	12½
(*321½)	330	4½	13	17½	31	23	27
Lloyds TSB	750	54½	90½	105½	25½	44½	53
(*798)	800	38	62	80	51	69½	77
Sort Pwr	420	24½	37	42½	10	19	25
(*434)	460	8	20	25	35	41	44
Unilever	1900	137½	182½	231	9½	41½	49
(*1912)	1950	64½	126	171½	39½	79	97

August 8, 1997 Tot: 59017 Call: 29024
Put: 29993 FTSE Call: 10028 Put: 9454
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Sep 97	115-05	115-08	114-06	114-09	104926
Previous open interest 190449	Dec 97				113-28	0
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Sep 97	101.95	102.11	101.63	101.75	209169
Previous open interest 280998	*Dec 97*	*101.13*	*101.15*	*100.91*	*100.92*	*1596*
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Sep 97	135.66	135.90	134.97	135.40	61401
Previous open interest 107195	Dec 97	107.40	107.65	107.40	107.64	198
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 97	126.55	126.67	126.53	126.65	1441
	Dec 97	125.92	125.99	125.92	126.02	654
Three Mth Sterling	Sep 97	92.80	92.81	92.76	92.79	21591
	Dec 97	92.70	92.71	92.64	92.67	35420
Previous open interest 465993	Mar 98	92.70	92.70	92.62	92.65	23353
Three Mth Euromark	Sep 97	96.62	96.69	96.63	96.66	29748
Previous open interest 1429105	Dec 97	96.49	96.55	96.48	96.51	53121
Three Mth Eurolira	Sep 97	93.22	93.25	93.16	93.19	4608
Previous open interest 371502	*Dec 97*	*93.55*	*93.59*	*93.48*	*93.51*	*16666*
Three Mth Euroyen	Dec 97				99.34	0
	Mar 98				99.22	0
Three Mth Euroswiss	Sep 97	98.36	98.45	98.35	98.41	4451
Previous open interest 145973	Dec 97	98.22	98.24	98.19	98.24	3035
Three Mth ECU	Sep 97	95.67	95.67	95.62	95.64	731
Previous open interest 39416	Dec 97	95.63	95.63	95.57	95.60	862
FTSE 100	*Sep 97*	*5110.0*	*5123.0*	*5037.0*	*5044.0*	*12288*
Previous open interest 51006	Dec 97	5176.0	5176.0	5105.0	5109.0	610

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 6½ Week fixed: 6⅞
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6½; 3 mth 6½. Sell: 2 mth 6½; 3 mth: 6½.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7⅛-7⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	7⅛-7	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7¼-7⅛
Interbank:	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7¼-7⅛
Overnight: open 7, close 7					
Local Authority Deps:	6⅞	n/a	7⅛	7⅛	7⅜
Sterling CDs:	7⅛-7	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅜-7⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.48	n/a	5.56	5.75	5.95
Building Society CDs:	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⁵⁄₁₆-7⁵⁄₁₆

TREASURY BILLS: Applicts: £1,031m allotted: £200m: Bids: £98.30%; received: 38%; Last week: £98.32% received: 86%; Avge rate £6.7800% last wk £6.7348%; Next week: £200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5⁹⁄₁₆	5⅞-5¹³⁄₁₆	5½-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	3⅛-2⅞
French Franc:	3⅝-3⅜	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	1⅛-1	1⅛-1⅛	1½-1⅜	1⅝-1½	1½-¾
Yen:	½-¼	½-¼	½-⅜	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $322.10-322.40 **Close:** $324.60-325.10 **High:** $325.00-325.40
Low: $320.90-321.40 *AM:* $321.60 *PM:* $323.70

Krugerrand: $324.00-326.00 (£205.00-207.00)

Platinum: $441.00 (£279.30) **Silver:** $4.41 (£2.765) **Palladium:** $232.00 (£146.95)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for August 8	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2927-3.3546	3.2944-3.2972	1-⅜pr	3¼-3pr
Brussels	60.360-61.510	60.374-60.466	21-16pr	58-51pr
Copenhagen	11.131-11.348	11.134-11.143	⅜-⅛pr	1-⅝pr
Dublin	1.0957-1.1095	1.0973-1.1014	11-9pr	31-24pr
Frankfurt	2.9223-2.9775	2.9237-2.9261	1-⅞pr	2⅞-2⅝pr
Lisbon	295.47-301.45	259.95-296.26	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1pr
Madrid	246.67-251.29	246.75-246.92	40-29pr	117-99pr
Milan	2850.9-2910.7	2850.9-2854.4	10pr-6ds	24-2pr
Montreal	2.1758-2.2063	2.1950-2.1969	0.67-0.62pr	1.34-1.25pr
New York	1.5716-1.5888	1.5780-1.5786	0.203-0.182pr	0.585-0.555pr
Oslo	11.979-12.290	11.996-12.030	⅜-⅛pr	1-⅝pr
Paris	9.8530-10.033	9.8546-9.9615	3⅛-3pr	9⅛-9⅛pr
Stockholm	12.516-12.814	12.519-12.533	⅜-⅛pr	⅞-⅜pr
Tokyo	182.79-186.45	182.79-183.01	1⅛-1pr	3⅛-3pr
Vienna	20.560-20.954	20.572-20.590	⅝-⅛pr	2-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.3634-2.4344	2.3834-2.3862	1⅛-1pr	3⅛-3⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium = pr. Discount = ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3666-1.3676
Austria	13.05-13.06
Belgium (Com)	38.21-38.32
Canada	1.3902-1.3907
Denmark	7.0542-7.0562
France	6.2535-6.2555
Germany	1.8564-1.8574
Hong Kong	7.7413-7.7423
Ireland	1.4312-1.4362
Italy	1809.70-1810.20
Japan	*116.80-116.90*
Malaysia	2.6885-2.6935
Netherlands	2.0914-2.0924
Norway	7.6056-7.6116
Portugal	187.60-187.70
Singapore	1.4810-1.4820
Spain	156.50-156.53
Sweden	7.9601-7.9676
Switzerland	1.5141-1.5151

OTHER STERLING

*Argentina peso**	2.1512-2.1540
Australia dollar	1.5745-1.5771
Bahrain dinar	0.5845-0.5965
Brazil real*	1.7051-1.7095
China yuan	12.838-13.138
Cyprus pound	*0.8525-0.8625*
Finland markka	8.7050-8.8210
Greece drachma	454.75-461.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.1910-12.2003
India rupee	55.52-56.48
Indonesia rupiah	*n/a*
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4735-0.4835
Malaysia ringgit	4.2401-4.2507
New Zealand dollar	2.4769-2.4804
Pakistan rupee	63.00 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6425-5.7665
Singapore dollar	2.3323-2.3353
S Africa rand (com)	7.3030-7.4050
U A E dirham	5.6925-5.8165

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	4,600	Ladbroke	3,000
ASDA Gp	14,700	Land Secs	2,000
Abbey Ntl	3,600	Legal & Gn	2,100
Allnce & Lelc	1,400	Lloyds TSB	13,000
Allied Dom	*6,200*	*LucasVarity*	*13,500*
AB Foods	559	Marks Spr	4,300
BAA	3,700	Mercury Ast	217
BAT Inds	9,800	NatWst Bk	4,700
BG	4,500	Nat Grid	15,500
BOC	*4,500*	*Nat Power*	*5,000*
BP	7,500	Next	2,300
BSkyB	785	Orange	2,400
BTR	25,600	P & O	916
BT	81,200	Pearson	1,800
Bk of Scot	2,700	PowerGen	2,600
Barclays	5,600	Prudential	6,100
Bass	3,400	RMC	2,100
Blue Circle	8,000	Railtrack	1,400
Boots	2,000	*Rank Gp*	*44,200*
BAe	3,300	Reckitt Col	976
BA	3,100	Reed Intl	4,600
British Land	2,100	Rentokil	6,600
Brit Steel	4,500	Reuters	2,700
Burmah Cstl	371	Rio Tinto	3,700
Cable Wire	5,000	Rolls Royce	8,600
Cadbury	1,700	Royal & Sun	7,200
Carlton Cms	3,600	Royal Bk Sct	2,100
Centrica	9,900	Safeway	3,000
Cm Union	5,100	Sainsbury	5,500
Dixons	3,500	Schroders	202
EMI	2,600	Scot & New	1,500
Energy Gp	476	Scot Power	2,400
Enterpr Oil	*1,400*	*Svrn Trent*	*1,000*
GKN	2,300	Shell Trans	26,600
GRE	2,400	Siebe	1,400
GUS	1,700	SmKl Bch	7,000
Gen Acc	692	Smiths Inds	1,400
Gen Elec	13,400	Std Chartd	3,100
Glaxo Well	7,700	TI Gp	4,100
Granada	4,200	Tate & Lyle	1,800
Grand Met	4,800	Tesco	7,200
Guinness	2,000	Thames W	871
HSBC	4,000	Tomkins	9,600
Halifax	5,200	Unilever	2,000
Hanson	2,300	Utd Utilities	3,700
Hays	448	Utd News	1,400
ICI	*6,000*	*Vodafone*	*3,900*
Imp Tob	1,700	Whitbread	1,400
Kingfisher	2,900	Wolseley	1,600
LASMO	2,600	Zeneca	3,100

WALL STREET

	Aug 8 *midday*	Aug 7 *close*
AMP Inc	51½	52⅛
AMR Corp	108½	109⅛
AT & T	39½	40⅛
Abbott Labs	*64*	*64*
Advanced Micro	36¼	36⅞
Aetna Life	95½	96¼
Ahmanson (HF)	50¾	51¼
Air Prod & Chem	85⅛	85½
AirTouch Comm	34	34¼
Alberton's	36	36¼
Alcan Aluminum	38⅛	38⅞
Allied Signal	92½	92⅞
Alum Co of Am	88⅛	88½
Amerada Hess	58¾	58½
Amer El Power	43¼	43⅛
Amer Express	82	82⅞
Amer Genl Corp	52	52⅛
Amer Home Pr	80½	80⅞
Amer Intl	99⅞	100½
Amer Stores	*23½*	*23⅞*
Amer Standard	50½	50
Ameritech	66½	67⅛
Amgen	57½	57½
Amoco	94⅛	95½
Andrew Corp	26½	26⅞
Anheuser-Busch	43¾	43½
Apple Computer	27⅛	29⅛
Archer Daniels	22½	22½
Armco	5⅞	5⅞
Armstrng Wrld	73½	73⅞
Asarco	*37½*	*37½*
Atl Richfield	75⅛	76
Atmel Corp	34⅛	34½
Auto Data Pro	48⅛	48
Avery Dennison	43½	44⅛
Avon Products	69⅞	70⅛
Baker Hughes	43½	44⅛
Baltim Gas & El	27½	27⅛
Banc One	52½	53½
BankAmerica	69⅞	70⅛
Bank of NY	46⅞	47½
Bankers Tr NY	*100½*	*101⅛*
Barnett Banks	54⅛	55½
Bausch & Lomb	43⅛	44
Baxter Intl	56½	56½
Becton Dickson	49¾	50⅛
Bell Atlantic	73⅛	73⅞
BellSouth	46½	46⅛
Black & Decker	42½	42⅛
Block (H&R)	38½	39½
Boeing	58⅛	59⅛
Boise Cascade	37½	37½
Boston Scien	74⅛	75½
Bristol Myrs Sq	78½	77⅛
Browning Ferris	35½	36½
Brunswick	32½	32
Burlington Nthn	95⅛	95⅛
CMS Energy Corp	35⅛	36
CPC Intl	*94½*	*95½*
CSX	59⅞	60⅛
Campbell Soup	49⅛	49½
Carolina Pwr	34½	35⅛
Case Corp	65½	65½
Caterpillar	*59½*	*60⅞*
Central & SW	19⅞	20⅛
Champion Intl	62½	62½
Chase Manhat	107⅞	109
Chevron Corp	77	78
Chrysler	36⅞	37½
Chubb Corp	68⅛	67½
Cigna Corp	191½	191½
Citicorp	135	136½
Clorox	137½	137⅞
Coastal Corp	55½	55½
Coca Cola	65½	66⅛
Coca Cola Ent	29⅛	30½
Colgate-Palm	70⅛	71½
Columbia Gas	66½	66⅛
ColumbiaHCA	33½	33⅞
Compaq Comp	60½	62⅛
Comp Ass Intl	67½	68⅛
Conagra	69½	69½
Cons Edison	31½	31⅛
Cons Nat Gas	57½	57⅛
Cooper Inds	*57*	*57*
Corestates	61⅞	62⅞
Corning Inc	63½	64
C'wide Credit	34½	34½
Crestar Finl	*45½*	*45⅞*
Crown Cork	52⅛	53½
Dana Corp	46½	47
Dayton Hudson	61½	61⅞
Deere	56½	57½
Delta Air Lines	90½	90½
Deluxe Corp	33½	33⅞
Digital Equip	44⅞	45⅞
Dillard Dept St	39⅛	39½
Disney (Walt)	78½	79⅛
Dominion Res	36½	36⅛
Donelley (RR)	39⅛	40⅛
Dover Corp	71⅛	71⅛
Dow Chemical	94½	94⅛
Dow Jones	42⅛	42½
Dresser	41½	41⅞
Duke Power	49½	49⅞
Dun & Bradstreet	27½	27⅛
Du Pont	68⅛	69½
Eastman Chem	59½	60½
Eastman Kodak	66½	67⅛
Eaton Corp	89½	89⅞

	Aug 8 *midday*	Aug 7 *close*
Edison Intl	25½	25⅛
Elect Data Sys	43⅛	43⅛
Emerson Elec	59½	59⅛
Engelhard Corp	*22⅛*	*22½*
Enron Corp	36½	37
Entergy	26½	26½
Ethyl Corp	9½	9⅛
Exxon	62½	64½
FMC Corp	87	87½
FPL Group	47½	47½
Federal Express	63½	64½
Fifth Third Banc	62	62½
Fleet Finl Grp	66⅞	67½
Fluor Corp	59½	62⅛
Ford Motor	41½	42⅛
Fortune Brands	35½	35⅞
Franklin Res	82½	83½
GTE Corp	46⅛	46⅛
Gannett	99½	99½
Gap Inc Del	*44½*	*44½*
Gen Dynamics	85⅛	85½
Gen Electric	67½	68½
Gen Mills	69½	70½
Gen Motors	63	64
Gen Reinsurance	198⅛	198⅞
Gen Signal	47⅞	48½
Genuine Parts	32½	32½
Georgia Pac	94½	95
Gillette	92⅞	94½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	40½	41⅛
Goodrich (BF)	*45*	*45⅛*
Goodyear Tire	65	65
Gt Atl Pac Tea	27⅛	27⅛
Great Lakes	48	48½
Halliburton	46⅞	47
Harcourt General	47½	48
Heinz (HJ)	44⅛	44½
Hercules	53½	54⅛
Hershey Foods	53½	52⅞
Hewlett Packard	68½	69⅛
Hilton Hotels	30⅛	30⅞
Home Depot	*49½*	*50½*
Homestake Mng	13½	13⅞
Honeywell	74½	74½
Household Intl	123	124
Houston Inds	21½	21⅞
Humana	23⅛	23½
ITT Corp	64½	64½
Ikon Office	27⅞	27⅛
Illinois Tool	50½	50⅛
Illinova	22½	23½
INCO	30⅛	30½
Ingersoll Rand	*64½*	*65*
Inland Steel	22⅞	22
Intel Corp	98½	100⅛
IBM	106½	107
Intl Flav & Fr	51⅞	52⅛
Intl Paper	56½	56⅞
James River Va	*42½*	*42½*
Johnsn & Jhnsn	*59½*	*60⅛*
Kellogg	98½	99
Kerr-McGee	62⅞	63½
Kimberly-Clark	50⅛	51½
Kmart	*11⅞*	*11⅞*
Knight-Ridder	51	51⅛
Lilly (Eli)	114⅛	113⅞
Limited Inc	22½	22⅛
Lincoln Nat	70⅛	71
Litton	57⅛	58½
Liz Claiborne	47½	48⅛
Lockheed Martin	105½	105½
Louisiana Pac	22½	22⅞
MCI Comm	33½	33⅛
Manpower Inc	50½	50⅛
Marriott Int	69	69⅞
Marsh & McLen	74½	75⅛
Masco Corp	46½	47⅛
May Dept St	54⅛	54½
Maytag Corp	29⅛	29⅛
McDonalds	51½	52⅛
McGraw Hill	66⅛	66⅞
Mead Corp	71½	71½
Medtronic	94⅛	95⅛
Mellon Bk	47½	48½
Merck Inc	100	99½
Mercury Fin	2⅛	2½
Merrill Lynch	66½	66⅛
Microsoft	142⅞	143⅞
Minnesota Mnge	95	95⅞
Mirage Resorts	28½	28½
Mobil Corp	73½	74⅞
Monsanto	47	47½
Morgan (JP)	111⅞	113½
Motorola Inc	80½	81⅞
Natl Semi	34⅛	34½
Natl Service Ind	46½	46⅞
Navistar Int	21½	21⅛
NY Times A	48½	48½
Newmont Mng	42½	41½
Nike B	59⅛	59½
NL Industries	13	13½
Nordstrom	56½	57⅛
Norfolk Sthn	109½	110½
Nthn State Pwr	50½	50⅞
Norwest Corp	60½	61½
Nynex Corp	58	58½
Occidental Pet	25½	25½
Ohio Edison	21⅞	22⅛
Oracle	56½	56⅛
Oryx Energy Co	25½	26½

	Aug 8 *midday*	Aug 7 *close*
Owens Corning	43½	43⅞
PPG Industries	65⅛	66⅞
PMI Group	58⅛	58½
PNC Bank	43½	44⅛
PP&L Res	20⅛	20⅛
Paccar Inc	47½	47½
Pacificorp	20½	21⅛
Pac Enterprises	32⅛	32⅛
Pall Corp	24⅞	24⅞
Parker Hannifin	66⅛	66½
Pecn Energy	22⅞	22⅛
Penney (JC)	58½	58⅛
Pennzoil	76⅞	77
Pepsico	38½	39
Pfizer	56⅞	57⅛
Pharm & Upjhn	37	37⅛
Phelps Dodge	86½	86⅛
Philip Morris	44⅞	44⅞
Phillips Pet	48⅛	48⅛
Pitney Bowes	76½	77½
Polaroid	58	58½
Procter & Gmbl	145½	146⅛
Providian	37½	38⅞
Pub Serv E & G	26½	26½
Quaker Oats	49⅛	49½
Ralston Purina	88½	88⅞
Raychem Corp	95⅛	95⅞
Raytheon	57⅛	57½
Reebok Intl	49½	50½
Reynolds Metals	78	78⅞
Rockwell Intl	*64½*	*64½*
Rohm & Haas	97⅛	97½
Royal Dutch	54½	55⅛
Rubbermaid	26½	26⅞
SBC Comms	57⅞	58
Safeco Corp	47½	48
St Paul's Cos	79½	76⅛
Sallie Mae	142½	145⅛
Salomon Inc	62½	63⅞
Sara Lee Corp	42⅛	43½
Schering Plough	51½	52⅞
Schlumberger	76⅞	77⅛
Seagram	37	37½
Sears Roebuck	62½	62½
Shell Trans	42⅛	41⅛
Sherwin Wilms	31⅛	31½
Silicon Graphics	27½	28½
Snap-On-Tools	41⅛	42
Southern Co	21⅛	21½
Southtrust	45½	45½
Sprint Corp	47½	48½
Stanley Works	44⅞	45
Sun Company	*36⅞*	*37⅛*
Sun Microsys	49½	49⅛
Suntrust	62⅞	63
Supervalu	40½	40½
Synovus Fin	27½	27⅛
Sysco Corp	36½	36⅞
TRW Inc	57	57½
TIG Hldgs	32⅛	32½
Tandem Comp	31⅛	32½
Tandy Corp	61½	62½
Temple Inland	68⅛	68⅛
Tenet Healthcare	*27⅛*	*27⅛*
Tenneco	47⅛	47⅛
Texaco	114½	115½
Texas Inst	126	127⅞
Texas Utilities	34½	34⅞
Textron	*66½*	*67½*
Thermo Elect	36⅛	37½
Time Warner	53½	53½
Times-Mirror A	50½	49⅞
Timken	35½	35⅞
Torchmark	38½	38½
Toys R Us	33½	33½
Transamerica	98½	99⅛
Travelers	68½	68½
Tribune	51⅛	51⅞
UST Inc	29⅛	29½
US Bancorp	91½	91½
UAL	79½	80½
US Inds	39⅛	39½
US West Comm	37½	37⅛
US West Media	21½	21⅞
USAirways Group	38⅛	38⅛
USX Marathon	31⅞	32
Unicom	23½	22⅞
Unilever NV	230½	231
Union Camp	59½	59⅛
Union Carbide	*55½*	*56½*
Union Pacific	71⅛	71⅞
Unisys Corp	10½	10⅛
USF&G Corp	23⅛	23½
United Tech	84⅛	84⅛
Unocal Corp	*40*	*40⅛*
VF Corp	89⅛	89½
Wal-Mart Stores	37⅞	38⅛
Warner-Lambert	135½	136½
Waste Mngmt	32½	32½
Wells Fargo	263½	266
Westinghouse El	26½	26½
Weyerhaeuser	61½	62½
Whirlpool	54½	54⅛
Whitman	25½	25½
Winn Dixie	35⅞	36½
Witco Corp	45½	45⅞
Woolworth	27½	28⅛
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	75½	76½
Xerox	78⅛	80⅛
Xilinx Inc	55½	56⅛

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Students are now seeking the best financial deals

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Caroline Merrell on the future for traditional banks in face of increasing competitive pressure

High street banks come under threat

ALAN ADLER

Banks are still the focus of a great amount of consumer dissatisfaction. The announcement this week of record profits by the UK's biggest clearing banks is bound to fuel customer resentment even further.

The billions of pounds made by the banks is unlikely to be used to help to provide higher savings, lower mortgage rates and better customer service. Banks still pay miserly amounts of interest on their savings accounts, charge a great deal for overdrafts and remain closed at inconvenient times.

Authorised overdrafts carry interest rates of about 18 per cent, while unauthorised overdrafts will rack up interest at between 22 and 30 per cent. Even these rates may be on the increase. After this week's increase in interest rates, all the banks are reviewing their overdraft rates. A survey carried out last year by *Which?*, the Consumers' Association magazine, found the costs of running a current account £100 into the red on a monthly basis varied widely between the banks.

A customer running a £100 overdraft with NatWest over a five-year period would be charged £513, while a £100 overdraft with the Woolwich over the same five-year period would cost only about £33. The best-buy current accounts recommended by the magazine would not charge anything for running an account into the red over a five-year period.

According to a survey from *Moneywise*, the monthly consumers' magazine, a large number of people are still dissatisfied with service given by their banks. The worst level of service, said respondents, is given by the Abbey National, Barclays, NatWest and the TSB, while the best level of service is given by Lloyds, Bank of Scotland and Co-op. FCB, a London advertising agency, asked the opinions of 3,000 people and found that banks were perceived as being particularly unhelpful.

The survey found that the customers believed that banks were keen to offer products that they wanted to sell rather than ones which suit a particular person's needs. The agency also found that consumers were far more positive about the new breed of banks offered by the supermarkets such as Tesco and Sainsbury's.

Competition among the banks, however, is beginning to heat up, with insurance companies, supermarkets and now Virgin attempting to break into the banking sector.

Sainsbury's Bank offers an instant-access account with a high interest rate of 6.15 per cent regardless of the balance. In six months, the bank has taken on 350,000 customers and £600 million of customers' money. Much of it has come from the recently demutualised building societies and the banks. Customers have been attracted by the high rates of interest offered by the supermarket bank.

All deposits will attract the 6.15 per cent interest rate. This is more than double many of the rates available from traditional banks in the high street. Virgin is still unclear about what its plans are for banking. It has managed to secure £400 million of extra backing from Australian Mutual Provident (AMP), and hopes to launch before the end of the year.

Rowan Gormley, managing director of Virgin Direct, said that the company had not decided whether to offer the bank through a third party, or whether it intended to offer a full range of banking services.

Prudential, which launched its bank ten months ago, now has about £274 million of deposits. Its 24-hour telephone banking service is operated by about 400 staff. It offers deposit-based accounts and is also planning to offer personal loans and possibly a current account later on in the year.

Direct Line, which pioneered selling motor insurance over the phone, has attracted about 60,000 customers with its high-rated deposit account, while First Direct, part of the Midland group, has attracted 755,000 customers since its launch seven years ago.

Standard Life, the United Kingdom's biggest mutual life insurance company, is also planning to launch a bank. According to *Moneyfacts*, the monthly savings magazine, the biggest high street names do not offer the best instant-access accounts. It recommends interest-paying cheque accounts from Abbey National, Bank of Scotland, Halifax, Northern Rock and Woolwich.

Abbey National, for instance, offers 24-hour banking and interest if the account is in credit. Authorised overdrafts cost 0.94 per cent a month, which works out at 11.9 per cent a year — one of the cheapest rates on the high street. Unauthorised overdrafts, however, are extortionately expensive, carrying rates of 29.5 per cent annually. Interest rates on Abbey National accounts in credit are between 1.34 per cent for balances of £500 and 3.45 per cent on balances of £100,000.

The cost of an overdraft with the Bank of Scotland is negotiable. Two of its accounts offer interest-free overdrafts of up to £100 or £250. This bank has an interest rate of between 4.25 per cent and 5.25 per cent on balances of betweeen £2,500 and £100,000.

Moneyfacts also recommends an account from the Northern Rock, which offers an interest rate of 3.4 per cent on its interest-paying cheque account.

These best buys contrast with the accounts offered by the biggest clearers such as Lloyds. The authorised overdraft rate on an account with Lloyds is about 18.8 per cent. Its classic current account offers interest of between only 0.2 and 0.5 per cent.

Barclays charges 18.8 per cent interest on authorised overdrafts; unauthorised overdrafts attract 29.8 per cent interest.

A constant £100 overdraft for five years at NatWest would cost £513. At Woolwich it would be just £33

Woolwich and Peps, page 35

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Lawyer cautious over pensions mis-selling pledge

This week two of the UK's biggest life insurance companies announced that they planned to offer victims of pensions mis-selling guarantees that they would suffer no financial loss on retirement.

They would offer these guarantees at the same time as trying to get policyholders reinstated into their occupational scheme. Guarantees will speed up the compensation process, and help appease Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury who is becoming increasingly impatient with companies for dragging their feet over dealing with the problem.

One insurance company, the Prudential, also went a step further by saying that victims of mis-selling would not have to prove they had been mis-sold a pension. Sir Peter Davis, Prudential chief executive, said that the insurance company had introduced the scheme because it wanted to hasten the review. He said: "We just want to get the whole thing sorted out."

The move will cost the company a substantial sum of money; as a result it has had to nearly double its provisions against compensation to £450 million. Legal & General, which was the first company to come up with a guarantee scheme, has yet to reveal how much it will cost.

Another 11 companies including Pearl have applied to the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) to get authorisation for similar schemes. However, Robert Wharton, a partner with Ringrose Wharton, a solicitor acting on behalf of around 600 people who have been mis-sold a personal pension, said that the guarantee schemes could be flawed.

Mr Wharton said: "This should not be seen as a panacea. It could be potentially dangerous." He said that he felt it was far better that pension mis-selling victims should be reinstated as soon as possible rather than relying on a promise that would be fulfilled at retirement.

He said that anyone who was offered the choice of a guaranteed scheme rather than reinstatement should ensure that they understood what the guarantee meant and what it covered them for. He said: "It gives the insurance companies complete control over pensions."

He also believes that the PIA should ensure that there is some degree of similarity between the guaranteed schemes offered by the different insurance companies.

The PIA claimed that the schemes should not be seen as a method for the companies to escape their responsibilities.

It said that it was looking at each of the schemes on their own merits. A spokeswoman said: "It should not be seen as a soft option."

The Prudential countered criticisms of the scheme by emphasising that the guarantee was a legally binding commitment. It also pointed out that attempts for reinstatement would continue.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Playing footsie is dangerous

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

London's stock market boom is not quite as it seems. The FTSE 100 index of blue chips touched new peaks this week, nearly a quarter higher than it started the year. But many investors checking their portfolios or unit trusts will wonder if this can really be true. Index-tracking funds should have kept up more or less. Most investors, paying experts to choose stock for them, or trusting their own judgment, have probably not.

There is a good reason for this. The index is a size-weighted average but its rise, like that of the economy, has been skewed. Robin Griffiths, trend analyst at HSBC James Capel argues provocatively: "The UK is already in a bear phase, unless your entire portfolio is made up of bank and pharmaceutical shares". Sounds good news for new investors nursing windfall shares in Halifax *et al*. On Thursday, when the Bank of England's message on interest rates pushed the index up 1.2 per cent, the 11 bank shares now included in the Footsie accounted for half the gain.

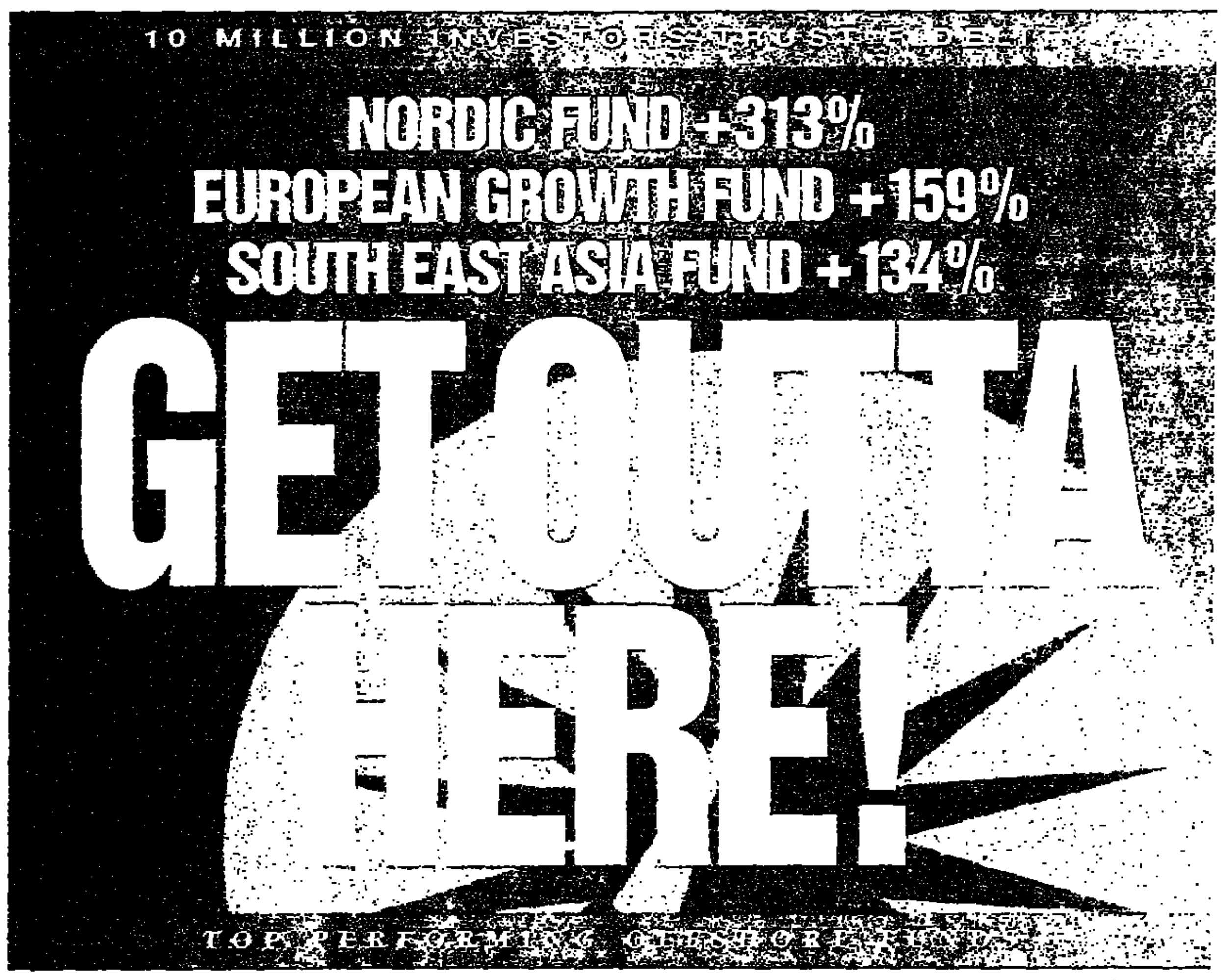
Most banks are doing nicely as half-year figures show. And the better the Bank of England's new monetary policy committee manages to maintain stable growth, the less the fear of banks being hit by their usual debt crisis. So far this year, the index of financial shares has risen by 39 per cent. But there is some froth in this. Prices now assume more mergers. Consolidation will doubtless continue, but the takeover of any player bigger than the Woolwich would now surely face severe scrutiny from the competition authorities. Mr Griffiths's applied his strictures to London's performance relative to other markets since the spring. But many UK share sectors have been stagnating in absolute terms.

General industrials, many hit by the strength of sterling, have only just recovered to January levels after sagging badly from March to mid-July. The services sector includes trendy business areas such as leisure, media and the pub/restaurant trade that should benefit from buoyant discretionary spending, as well as the vast and solid retail groups. Yet on average, the 273 stocks measured in the relevant FTSE Actuaries index have risen by only 4 per cent.

Companies outside the premier league have been badly neglected. Even consituents of the FTSE 250, which includes the biggest, other than the top 100, have only managed to edge up about 2 per cent. Investors in small quoted companies have, on average, actually seen their shares fall this year. This imbalance reflects the economy, but it is mainly due to the pattern of buying. Domestic investors, whether pension funds or individuals, have not been queueing to buy. The biggest companies, most of which are financials, drug companies or utilities, have been driven ahead by investment from global funds wanting to put more money into London. Of late, continental funds have been most active.

Yesterday showed how dangerous a game playing the Footsie has become in consequence. The rising pound made it attractive to buy London. A suddenly sagging pound, talked down by the Bank's hint that there would be no more rate rises before November, soon had some foreign funds scrambling to take their profits. This is a healthy development. Dangerous tensions are building up in the international currency and financial markets that may well end in tears. Pricking the London bubble early should help later on.

This week's developments are actually most encouraging for domestic investors. They have brought a lower pound and growing confidence that short-term interest rates will not rise above 7.5 per cent. That should underwrite modest economic growth and give much-needed aid to company earnings, which were expected to rise by under 8 per cent this year and less than 7 per cent in 1998. If you are brave enough to invest, though, back the neglected stocks rather than the fickle Footsie.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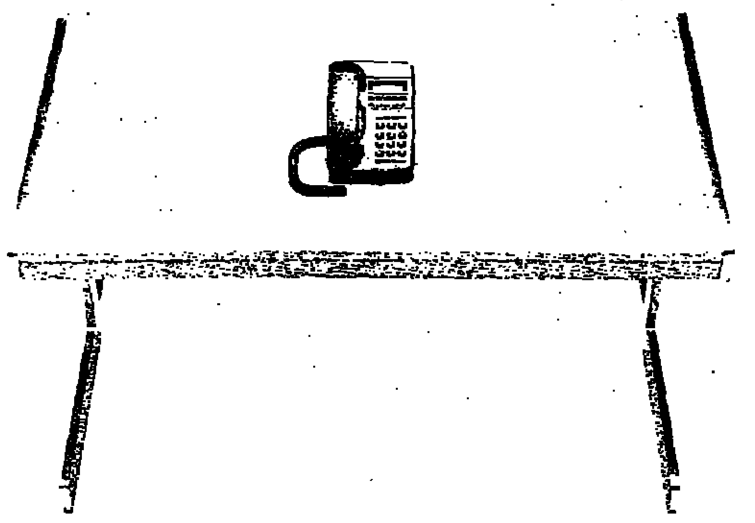

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Sara McConnell on why partners must be open in loan dealings

The society that came back out of the blue

Husbands, wives and partners who fail to question or discuss family and business finance arrangements could leave themselves open to unpleasant demands from creditors if their spouse dies in debt.

Sara Robinson of the Family Law Consortium says women, who often shy away from discussing money with their partners, are most at risk. Women who agree to allow the family home to be remortgaged to finance a husband's or partner's business should insist on their right to independent legal advice and should question the lender closely about the risks if the mortgage is not paid.

Nearly four years ago, the House of Lords ruled that lenders had a duty to explain the risks of remortgaging to fund a business and had to demonstrate they had taken "reasonable steps" to do so.

But the ruling has not helped Kathleen Brown. Her husband died in debt in April 1991 after his wine business collapsed. In a bid to keep the business afloat, Mr Brown persuaded his wife to remortgage their home, more than doubling the original £30,000 loan to £64,000 in August 1989. The loan was in the name of Mrs Brown, for family reasons, with Mr Brown guaranteeing it.

TED DITCHBURN

Still paying: Kathleen Brown faced a bill for £18,000

Mr Brown was supposed to pay the mortgage every month. But unknown to Mrs Brown, he did not. Only when he died did Mrs Brown discover that she was in serious debt. The Bradford & Bingley, her lender, repossessed her home in August 1991 which they sold for enough to cover the original £64,000 loan. Mrs Brown thought her debt was paid.

But this year, five years later, the Bradford & Bingley wrote demanding £18,000, which it said was the total of nearly three years' arrears, plus interest and legal costs. As Weekend Money has revealed, growing numbers of lenders are resurfacing after years of silence to demand money as the economy picks up, in the hope that former borrowers may be able to pay.

Mrs Brown is still negotiating to pay off the debt in small instalments from her nurse's salary. But she maintains she never received any of Bradford & Bingley's letters telling her she was in arrears before her husband died. Bradford & Bingley says it sent her a series of letters asking that she clear the arrears. The letters were sent to Mrs Brown as the person legally liable for the loan.

She and the Bradford & Bingley now conclude that her husband was intercepting the letters to hide the true state of his financial difficulties from her. The lender says that although the letters were addressed to Mrs Brown, it was always Mr Brown who made contact promising to clear the arrears by the time he died in 1991.

Mrs Brown said: "He was obviously desperate and didn't talk to me about what he had arranged".

Bradford & Bingley says the mortgage agreement made it clear that Mrs Brown was liable and the risks had been explained to her. "We did everything by the book".

Loans by phone for buyers in a rush

It is now possible to arrange almost your entire mortgage by telephone, but is it any cheaper? Though mortgages sold by telephone still account for a small proportion of home loans, it is an area that is growing fast. Northern Rock, one of the new entrants to the direct market, launched its service in May. In the first two months it attracted more than £50 million of applications.

Its first direct product is the Promise Mortgage. Its rate (currently 6.49 per cent) is reset at the beginning of each month to ensure it is below the average variable rate of five other big direct lenders. However, for borrowers seeking a quick and easy option, the direct route is not necessarily cheaper.

Some banks, and building societies such as the Nationwide and Cheltenham & Gloucester, offer the same products in branches as by telephone. Others may offer a range with a lower rate and with different conditions attached such as a larger deposit. Bradford & Bingley Mortgages Direct, for example, has a standard variable rate of 6.99 per cent, with a maximum loan to value of 75 per cent. This compares with a variable rate of 7.7 per cent, and a loan to value ratio of 95 per cent at B&B branches.

While branch interest rates may appear higher, it is worth remembering that there may be special offers available such as discounts for first-time buyers. Going direct does cut out having to trail up and down the high street. Initial details can be given by advisers on the telephone. If you decide to follow them up, and can supply information such as income, life insurance and so on, a mortgage adviser can outline an offer in principle at the end of the call.

The direct approach is recommended for experienced housebuyers rather than first-timers who are unfamiliar with what is required and who often prefer to talk to advisers face to face. "The direct approach is mainly for people who know the ropes such as second and third-time buyers. It is for people who have not got the time or do not want to go into a building society," said James Evans, of Bradford & Bingley Building Society.

Finalising the mortgage package may take several weeks. You need to allow for the time it takes for papers to be sent by post and for all the details to be supplied. Together with the banks and building societies, there are also the lenders such as Direct Line and Sainsbury's Bank, which offer only direct services.

Sainsbury's Bank offers an options mortgage that lets customers vary payments over ten months rather than 12, for example, or to take a payments break. Current variable rates start at 7.45 per cent. Direct Line offers interest-only and repayment mortgages at a 7.32 per cent standard variable rate, up to 90 per cent of property value. It charges no fee, nor insists you buy insurance.

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Free banking? Well, for the moment

COMMENT

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Personal Finance Deputy Editor

Name one good thing about your bank, urges the advertisement. In spite of the results of the Moneywise survey (see page 29), I can think of lots.

So long as I stay in credit I get free banking; I can arrange overdrafts and loans by telephone; I get a cheque book and monthly statements and there are cash machines on the corner of every high street.

In comparison with other countries, we still have a good banking service. The queues at banks in the United States may be shorter, but you pay handsomely for the privilege. Judging by the limited demand for bank accounts with one-off fees in this country, paying for a current account is still not a popular option among the British.

Banks could improve their image by offering more competitive interest rates on savings, and reducing the penalties on those who become overdrawn. This week banks revealed more handsome gains in their UK retail arms as they reported their half-year results. Much of this has been due to staff cuts and branch closures.

The high street clearers have further to go until they are truly lean, but when cost-cutting is complete they will look for alternative sources of income.

These could include levying charges on current accounts, starting with a modest annual fee and gradually increasing. Enjoy the free ride while it lasts.

About time too

CAST-IRON guarantees from Prudential and Legal & General that victims of the pensions mis-selling will not suffer any financial loss on retirement are laudable and long-overdue. But it is still preferable for investors to be reinstated in occupational schemes now, rather than waiting 22 years for payment. There are few other occasions when a wronged party has to wait almost a quarter of a century for redress. In the interim, victims will have no control over their pension and may be penalised if they take a career break. Regulatory bodies are unlikely to exist in their current form, and life companies may be tempted in the future to test in court the legality of the settlement.

The attraction of a guarantee for pension providers is that the bill is spread across a number of years.

The Personal Investment Authority must establish an industry standard for life company guarantees, so that all are subject to the same rigours. At present life companies propose their own guarantee, which the PIA then approves. Only now, after several years, is the PIA taking a tough stance with the industry. It would be a shame indeed if the issue of guarantees allowed the life companies to hoodwink us a second time.

Clare Stewart finds the best home for your holiday pounds

Istanbul will have many more joys to offer at this year's advantageous exchange rates

More Turkish delight all round

If you are heading for Turkey or Thailand for your holidays you are on to a winner. Failing that France or Spain look hot. But it has nothing to do with the quality of the beaches or the strength of the Sun. Instead it is the strength of the pound against foreign currencies.

While sterling's recent ascent had Britain's exporters counting the cost, UK holidaymakers have been cheering all the way to the bureau de change. In general sterling has performed best against European currencies, including several popular holiday destinations while remaining relatively unchanged against other international currencies.

There are exceptions such as Thailand, which has recently seen its currency drop by about one third against the pound, while the South African rand has dipped by a fifth. Both, however, owe more to problems within their own countries, than to the attraction of the strong pound. Visitors to Thailand, once one of the world's fastest growing economies, will now get about 44 Thai baht to the pound, compared with 36 baht a year ago. The rand is trading at 7.13 to the pound against 6.56 last August.

Comparing current exchange rates quoted by Thomas Cook with those offered a year ago, holidaymakers in Turkey appear the biggest winners. At the present rate of about 251,489 Turkish lire to the pound, Aegean-bound tourists will get £127.40 more for their money on a typical £250 currency order than a year ago. At the same time, Turkey has seen prices pushed up by rising inflation, but it still represents good value.

Against Portuguese, Spanish, Greek and French currencies, the pound has also made strong progress. On average the rate changes add up to an extra £60 in your pocket, again on a £250 currency order. Gains are also to be made on Italian lire and Cyprus pounds where the currency movements mean an extra £50 on a £250 currency order.

Outside continental Europe modest gains can be made in Tunisia, where changes in the exchange rate buy £14.20 more dinars than last year. According to Thomas Cook's cost of holiday living index, a three-course set meal will cost about £7.95. A year ago it was £11.65. Similarly in Turkey a set meal priced at £8.60 last year is likely to cost £6.05 now.

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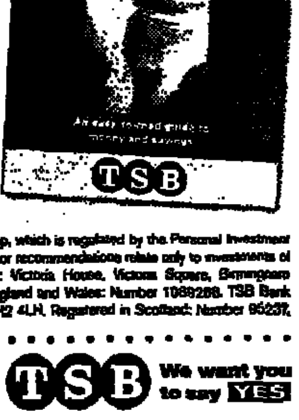

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As thousands of students rush for places, **Lizanne Rose** looks

Laura takes the offshore option

DES JENSON

Laura Bender is a sixth-former at Westminster School, taking A-Levels in 1998. She is already saving, aware that a great deal of the cost of higher education will be passed on to students. She told Weekend Money how she has arranged her financial affairs.

She said: "I have money in my name put aside for me by my grandparents to help to pay for my university education. I have three savings accounts. The first is a Lloyd's 16-19 account, which I use for everyday purposes. I pay in my allowance, and money from babysitting, and use it mainly for entertainment and travel by train and Tube. It is especially useful for me since the bank gave me a chèque guarantee card a year early."

Laura thinks that the big banks try to appeal to student customers by giving away vouchers. However, this is a short-term and sometimes misguided attitude.

She said: "A friend of mine has opened accounts at every bank that offers vouchers and free gifts for young people. She has then either reduced the balance to a nominal sum, or closed the account." On the attitude of banks to students, she said: "Although I appreciate being offered vouchers, I find the tone of the advertising patronising. A more important consideration for me, apart from interest rates, was the number of cashpoints around London, and the fact that Lloyd's is the bank closest to my home.

"I have considered opening another account with a bank that offers more 'freebie' incentives, but have never really thought it was worth it for the relatively small gain. My other two accounts are high-interest accounts, in which money to pay for university is kept — one offshore Jersey and Guernsey account, and one Sainsbury's Bank.

"Until I discovered Sainsbury's Bank, this money was in a Nationwide 90-day account. However, when I saw that Sainsbury's offered substantially better interest rates, I closed the account. I was particularly irritated to discover that if I had been under 17, Nationwide would have offered me much better rates. I don't think I am unusually financially aware, although having my money for university in my own name has made me more so."

Rush to beat the fees deadline

News that from October 1998, students will have to pay tuition fees has prompted a rush of applications from students who had planned to postpone taking up their college place for a year. Those who had intended to take a gap year are now scrambling to be admitted this September or October, and university admissions officers have been overwhelmed by calls.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) is running a series of urgent investigations to gauge the potential impact on clearing. Around 295,000 places are available and are being chased by 350,000 candidates.

The Government announced that a new unified student loan covering maintenance and tuition costs would be introduced and that the existing system of loans and grants would be abolished. Means-tested fees of £1,000 each year would be charged from 1998, and the maintenance grant phased out. Students will be obliged to borrow not only to cover much of the cost of their maintenance at university but also to repay £1,000 a year of their teaching fees.

Students from poorer backgrounds will be exempt from paying for their tuition. Critics have suggested that although graduates will not have to start repaying loans until they are earning more than £10,000, they may be under increasing pressure to select degrees or universities which will lead to high-earning jobs.

The Student Loans Company will continue to administer the new loan scheme which will be phased in from October 1998. The current system of loans, introduced under the Conservatives in 1990, will remain unaffected for this academic year. Repayment of loans from the Student Loans Company must begin in the April of the year after graduation.

The repayments are spread over five or seven years depending upon the number of loans taken out — you can take out one loan for each year you are at university. The rate of interest is set by the Education Secretary but is index-linked to inflation, so the value of the money paid back is equal to the value of the money borrowed. If your annual earnings as a graduate are less than 85 per cent of the national average income, ie. less than £16,439 in 1997-98, payments may be deferred.

Additional research by Ilfana Vali

ALLOWANCES UNDER STUDENT LOANS SCHEME

The Student Loans Scheme is a Government-funded loans scheme introduced under the Education (Students Loan) Act 1990 and the Education (Student Loans) (Northern Ireland) Order 1990. *The Act and Order provide for loans to be made towards students' living costs.*

LOAN FACILITIES	FULL YEAR 1996/97	FINAL YEAR 1996/97	FULL YEAR 1997/98	FINAL YEAR 1997/98
Students living away from home:				
- in London	£2,035	£1,485	£2,085	£1,520
- elsewhere	£1,645	£1,200	£1,685	£1,230
Living at home	£1,260	£920	£1,290	£945

Pick a policy before packing

For most students, insurance is the last thing on their minds, but some form is advisable, especially if you own a television, hi-fi or computer. Most banks offer lower rates for students but check that you are not already covered by your parents' contents insurance.

■ **Barclays:** Its student package covers personal belongings and college/landlord's property up to £5,000. Student pays first £30-50 worth of damage. Extras include theft of valuables and bicycles.

■ **Lloyds:** Offers a comprehensive student insurance with cover ranging from £2,000 to £4,000. Student pays first £25. Goods in transit to and from college are covered.

■ **Midland:** Contents and personal belongings — £2,000. Includes high-risk items. Rates depend on location of university and whether living out or in a hall of residence. Goods covered in transit.

■ **Bank of Scotland:** Special package for student belongings. Provides £1,500 for damage to landlord's property, £5,000 for travel accident. Additional cover for valuables.

■ **NatWest:** Student Protector policy has 10 per cent first-year discount on personal belongings.

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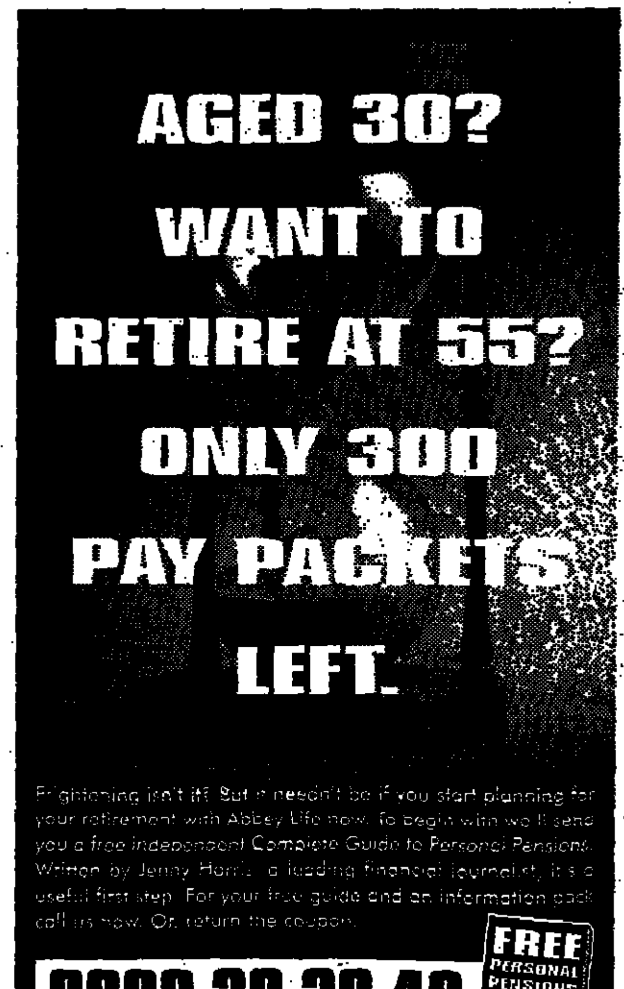

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Finding tomorrow's customers

When A-level results arrive next week, thousands of young people will begin preparing for life as undergraduates. For many new students, the first term at college or university will also be the first time they have had a large lump sum. Many find it difficult to manage their money and 30 per cent will take part-time work. With more competition in the sector, banks and building societies want student customers because they are likely to be high earners. Here we weigh up the competition.

Every bank takes a different approach to attracting students: some send freshers away with a new CD, a railcard or a small cash gift; others, such as NatWest, prefer to give messages on money management.

Most banks offer accounts tailored towards the 18-22 age group with extra facilities to cater for students' needs such as interest-free overdrafts. Building societies tend not to offer special student packages. Instead, they have better rates for balances in credit. In most cases, students will be non-taxpayers and can elect to have their interest paid gross.

To do this, however, involves registering eligibility for the tax rebate by completing an R85 form ("Interest With No Tax Deducted Registration Form") available from all banks and building societies. Inland Revenue rules state that tax is not payable as long as all the interest on savings plus earnings does not exceed £4,045 this tax year.

■ **Barclays:** its undergraduate package includes £1,100 interest-free overdraft in the first year, £1,400 in the second and £1,600 in the third. Also £100 interest-free overdraft buffer to help with unexpected expenses or delayed grant cheques. Cash incentives of £25 for joining and £25 when signing up for a student Barclaycard, £10 cinema discount vouchers and commission-free traveller's cheques for duration of study.

■ **Lloyds:** offers interest-free overdrafts of £500 to £1,500: above these, 7.4 per cent interest per annum. There is a gift of £30 for opening an account, or £20 plus a National Express three-year travel card worth £19.

■ **Midland:** has the facility for a free £750 overdraft in the first year, £1,000 in second, £1,250 in the third and £1,500 for any further years of study. Additional agreed borrowing exceeding this limit incurs interest at 1 per cent over the bank's base rate. Joining incentive is a free four-year railcard or £50. There is a free Midland Visa/Mastercard. Fixed interest rate of 2.25 per cent on student account.

■ **The Royal Bank of Scotland:** offers an interest-free overdraft as well as insurance cover plus a discount offer on travel, telephone costs, CDs and videos. It pays 3.5 per cent interest.

■ **Co-operative Bank:** has no freebies, just a standard £500 interest-free overdraft in the first year, £600 in the second and £700 in the third and for 12 months after graduation. Above this 1.5 per cent per month is charged (19.6 per cent per annum).

■ **Bank of Scotland** offers interest-free overdrafts of £700, £800 and £1,000. Above these there is a 12 per cent charging rate per annum. A 10 per cent discount is given on travel insurance plus commission-free traveller's cheques.

■ **Halifax:** £1,000 interest-free overdraft for up to six years and a year after graduation. Interest on balances in credit is 4 per cent for all current accounts is part of student package.

■ **NatWest:** offers £35 to all those joining as well as commission-free travellers cheques. Interest-free overdrafts of £1,000 for the first three years and £500 more for the next two if applicable.

■ **Woolwich:** for instant access and low charges, the two best options are Prime Gold and the Current Account. Prime Gold has instant access via passbook or ATM card, tiered interest rates, minimum initial investment of £50. Current Account offers instant access, ATM card, cheque guarantee card for those aged over 18, authorised overdraft of up to £5,000.

■ **First Direct:** this 24-hour bank has no specific student account and no free overdraft, although plans are being considered.

■ **Sainsbury's Bank:** There is no current account and no student service but Sainsbury offers an Instant Access Saving account which pays [illegible] per cent gross on investment of £1 upwards. Its [illegible] ATM machines allow students easy access to their money.

■ **Tesco:** The Tesco Student Clubcard for the 18 plus and in full-time education has the features of the Tesco Clubcard but with added benefits such as money-off coupons.

Building societies have competitive rates of interest but no special offers for students.

■ **Bradford & Bingley:** Its First Choice account offers instant access, higher rates of interest as balances grow, and bonus interest for less than three withdrawals a year.

■ **Leeds & Holbeck:** Young-Saver account has instant access for under-21s. Minimum opening balance is [illegible] at 3.5 per cent (gross), [illegible] — 4.5 per cent, £500 — 5.5 per cent, £1,000 — 6.5 per cent.

A switch in time for Tabitha

ANDRE CAMARA

Tabitha Muner, 22 is temping as a secretary in London this summer before she starts her third year at University College London. She has switched banks and building societies three times and has compared services. She joined the Nationwide, where she still has a savings and an extra current account, but they refused to issue her with a Visa credit card in order to go travelling.

She said, "Towards the end of my gap year when I applied for a Visa credit card, they wouldn't give me one. They said that because I was not earning much, I wasn't a worthy enough risk. When I went to Lloyds they were much more helpful. I ended up playing one off the other, and Nationwide quickly relented. For a while I had both a Lloyds and a Nationwide Visa card".

Tabitha started using Lloyds as her main bank. "My Nationwide account was not student-orientated and they offered no overdraft."

However, she switched banks again when the overdraft limit at Lloyds proved insufficient. "Although Lloyds was very good to me for a number of years, the overdraft facility at Midland was much better."

But after university she thinks she will return to Lloyds and bank with them once more. "The service at Midland has been appalling recently. Customer services kept me holding twice on the telephone for ten minutes."

Counting the cost of Edinburgh nights

SIMON SCHLUTER

Caroline Gammell, 20, an English and history student has just finished her second year at Edinburgh University. She has had a bank account with the Royal Bank of Scotland since she was 15 and decided to continue using the bank while at university, mainly because of the appeal of its extendable overdraft facility.

"Converting to student life did not alter my relationship with the bank; I didn't suddenly receive a wealth of discounts or perks. Friends of mine have joined other banks where the incentives have been more obvious, but then have got incredibly frustrated at the lack of co-operation and help. But at the Royal Bank, they are generally effective and reliable."

Studying in Edinburgh, Caroline found it useful to use a Scottish bank. "It is ideal having so many branches in the city and around Scotland. The fact that you can also use a wide range of other banks in England, such as Barclays and Lloyds makes it an obvious choice."

Although she has never been badly in debt, she did find to her cost how crippling bank charges can be when she temporarily exceeded her £200 overdraft. "I knew I was close last year, but I did not realise how badly I'd get stung. Since then, I've kept a closer watch on my finances and negotiated my overdraft up to £500."

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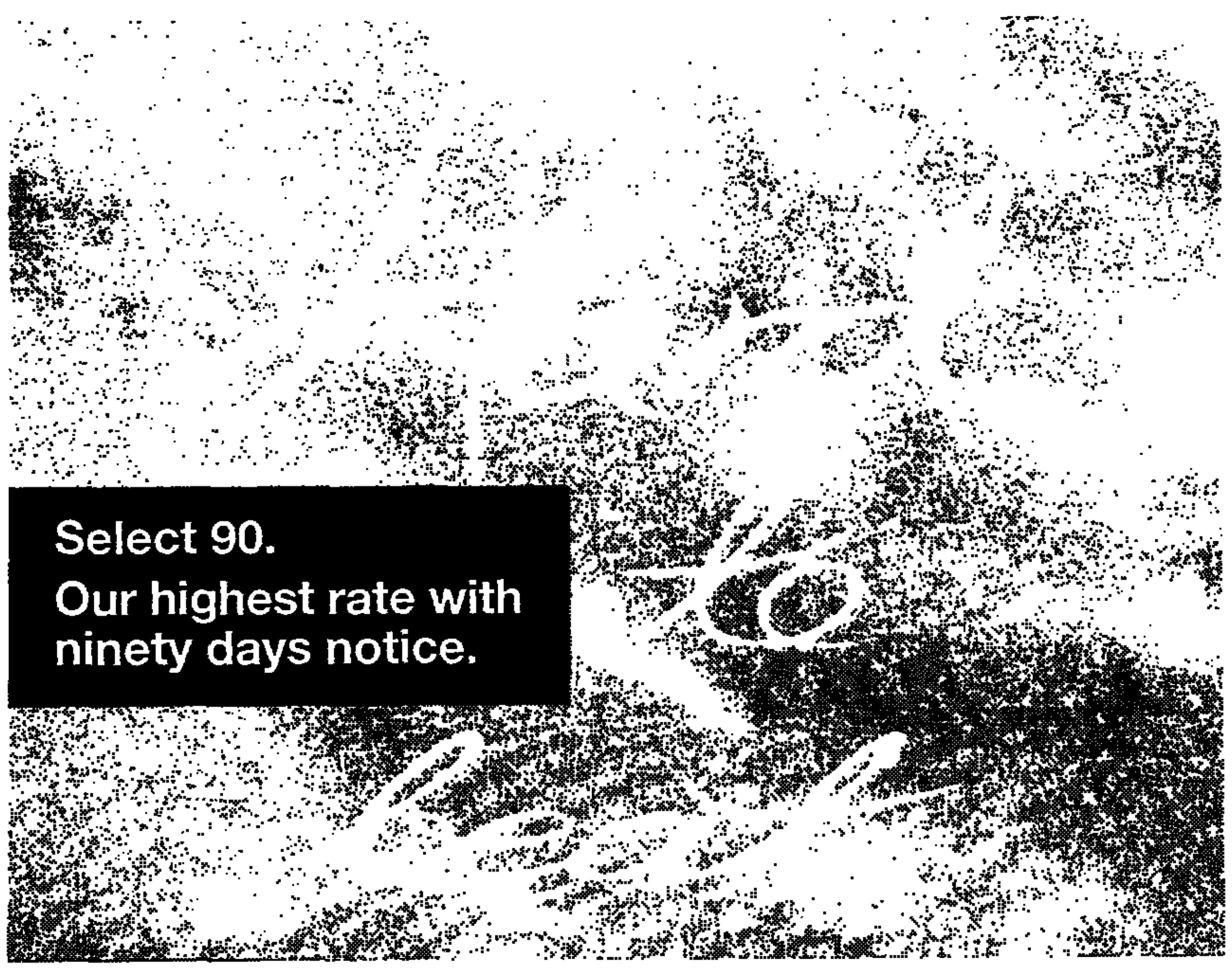

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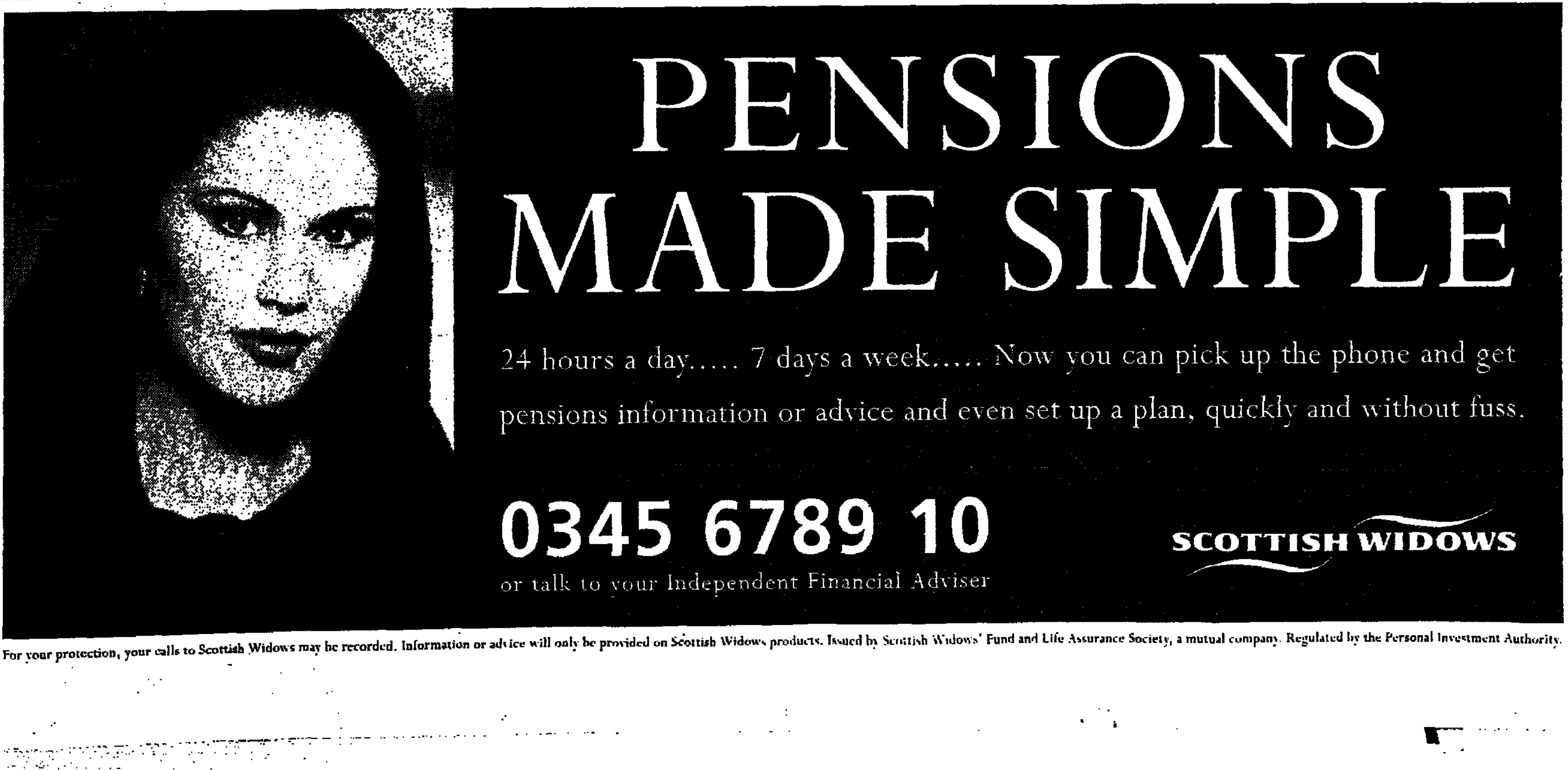

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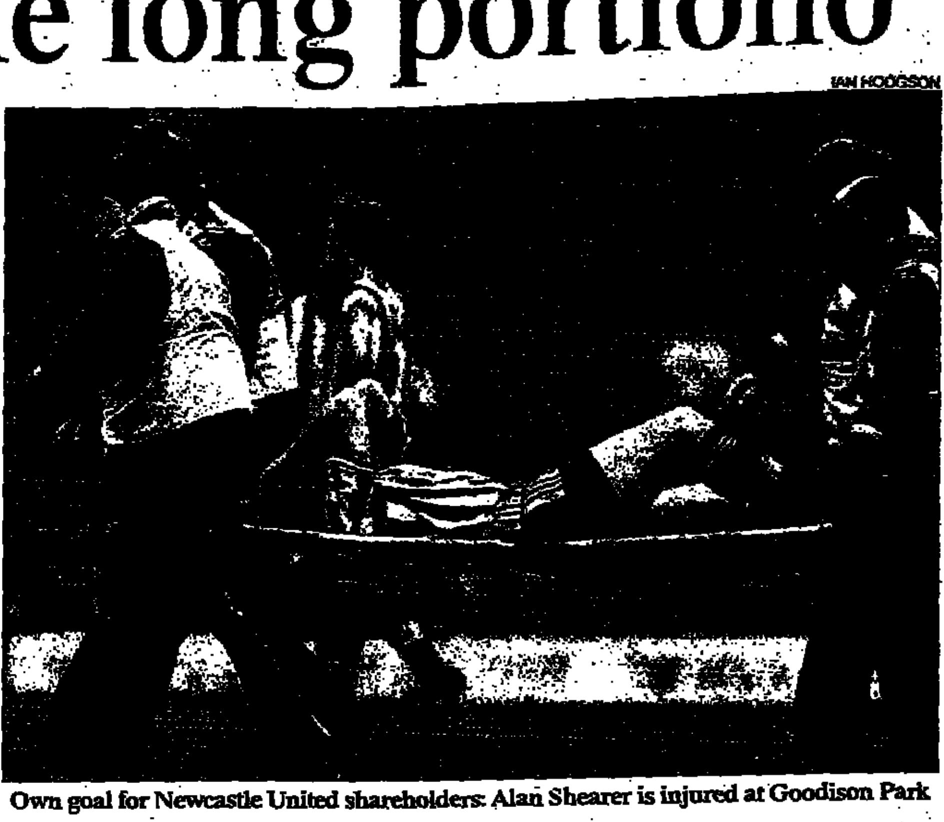
Playing the long portfolio

Clare Stewart takes her seat in the press box at the kick-off of the football investment championship



IAN HODGSON

Own goal for Newcastle United shareholders: Alan Shearer is injured at Goodison Park

At the end of the day it has been a game of two halves and the boys have given 110 per cent but the value of your football investment can fall as well as rise. It is the time of year when pitch-side pundits and City followers of football pull on their favourite strip in preparation for the forthcoming season.

There are 18 quoted football clubs and more, including West Ham, lining up in the tunnel, but at present the football sector is a stock market minnow, capitalised at £1.3 billion. "Last year's ride on the stock market has been a real rollercoaster for football clubs," said Gerry Boon, head of the Deloitte & Touche industry team which this week published its *Annual Review of Football Finance*.

The rollercoaster ride was put down to "... growing pains and a sign of maturity — both the City and football are developing a better understanding of each other's mechanics and motives ..." it says. "This year the market has seen a healthy consolidation," said David Brooks, of Nomura, the broker. Its Football Clubs Index clearly shows prices are moving up again, though still some way below peaks seen earlier this year, around the time of a number of floats such as Sunderland and Newcastle United, and the launch of the Football Fund, a vehicle for investment in a spread of clubs and sports-linked companies.

Within the sector, Premier League clubs in particular command most attention, not least because of their size and the importance of their income stream from merchandising and television rights. Among them, Manchester United remains a firm favourite with the City and supporters alike. It is the highest-rated stock in the sector, with its progress fuelled both by success on the pitch and its commercial strengths.

"It has a strong global image and brand name," said Nigel Hawkins, a football analyst at Yamaichi. Speculation that a large leisure or media group may make a bid for Manchester United adds to its appeal. Spurs is also on the buy lists of a number of brokers, again helped by the strength of its brand name and management. "It is one of the best run businesses and shows a company can perform well financially even if it is not so successful on the pitch," said Nick Battram, sports analyst at Greig Middleton.

Newcastle United has less enthusiastic City followers. After peaking at 140p shortly after coming to the market, the shares had a bumpy ride and hit a low this year of 113½p. Management problems, injury for Alan Shearer and uncertainty over funding for its new stadium continue to hold back its share price.

Celtic looks attractive says Melanie Sharp, an analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, the broker. She says growth potential is considerable with scope for more commercial revenue. In addition the possibility of Celtic moving into the English Premiership opens up the prospect of much higher television earnings for the club.

Aston Villa has had a good run and, while rated one of the sector's quality investments, it is seen as fully valued, with some suggestion that the £6.5 million paid for Stan Collimore was a little high.

But whichever team you support, brokers say remember to curb your passion and spread your holdings.

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

What a way to run an industry

You heard dad..? "There's more chance of an answer if we send them up the chimney!"
BLDG SOC.
BANK
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From Mr I. D. Watson

Sir, Half-way through an overseas tour, my daughter was home for more than three weeks in June. Warning everyone she had a fixed departure, she had no problems with:

☐ DVLA changing the address on her driving licence.
☐ The Revenue in submitting and clearing her tax return.
☐ local plumber organising a new kitchen sink.
☐ NHS carrying out tests for a suspected foreign bug.

The failures were:

☐ Halifax, which even now has still not managed to provide a statement of her mortgage account from last September, let alone start the process for repaying the small balance outstanding, which was the original request.
☐ Royal Bank of Scotland which, despite assurances that changing the type of her credit card in the period available was absolutely no problem, in fact left her for her first 17 days in the US with no credit card!

What is wrong with Britain's financial services industry that it cannot manage even simple administrative tasks? Surely it must realise back-office incompetence creates bad-will, even if it does create entertaining bar-room stories.

Yours faithfully,
I.D. WATSON,
Stane House,
Woodcote End,
Epsom,
Surrey.

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	SINCE LAUNCH % CHANGE	SINCE LAUNCH POSITION IN SECTOR	5 YEARS % CHANGE	FUND RESEARCH RATINGS
International Growth	+732.7	3 out of 18	+115.8	AAA
Emerging Companies	+792.0	1 out of 28	+136.6	AAA
American Growth	+1366.9	1 out of 12	+148.9	AA
Far Eastern Growth	+444.6	1 out of 13	+146.3	AAA
Japanese Growth	+25.3	12 out of 73	+38.4	–
European Growth	+279.2	3 out of 5	+124.8	–
UK Growth	+399.8	1 out of 24	+137.8	AAA
Asian Smaller Markets	+118.4	9 out of 80	–	AA
Latin American Growth	+65.4	11 out of 25	–	–

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£10,000–£24,999	[redacted]
£25,000–£49,999	[redacted]
£50,000–£99,999	[redacted]
£100,000+	[redacted]

MORTGAGE RATE

Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate

VARIABLE RATE	[redacted]
APR	[redacted]

All rates correct at 4th August 1997.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Revenue allays investors' fears

Woolwich members who receive their share certificates late will still have 42 days in which to transfer into a personal equity plan (Pep) if they want to, the Inland Revenue has confirmed (Gavin Lumsden writes).

This is good news for up to 10,000 people still waiting for their certificates a month after the former building society floated on the Stock Exchange.

Windfall investors need to send their certificates in with their Pep application forms. Under the Inland Revenue's rules they have 42 days from the date of allocation to do so.

Investors became alarmed this week when a Revenue spokesman said the date of allocation had to be the date of flotation, July 7, giving an immovable final deadline of August 15.

This raised fears that they would miss out on the opportunity of sheltering their windfall in the Pep tax shelter through no fault of their own.

However, the Revenue has now said the date of allocation can be the date on the share certificate.

In practice, the Woolwich says, investors will have 42 days from the Monday of the week in which they receive the certificate.

☐ Many people who think they have made good provision for their retirement may not realise until they retire that they have been affected by the personal pensions mis-selling, says Age Concern.

As part of the on-going information campaign, Have You Lost Out On Your Pension?, Age Concern has joined forces with the Securities and Investment Board and the Personal Investment Authority to raise awareness.

The campaign targets those who switched from their employer's pension scheme to a personal pension between 1988 and 1994. A factsheet has been produced. *Putting Things Right — the Review of Personal Pensions* explains how to find out if you are entitled to compensation. For a free copy, call 0800 003007.

☐ An insurance policy aimed at the UK's 50,000 dog breeders has been launched. *Breedline* offers protection against potentially high compensation awards and court costs. Prices range from £65 to £200. Call 0151 281 6196.

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at August 7, 1997

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
1,000	Hambro Assured	4.95
5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.20
10,000	GE Fin Assur	*6.80
2 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.70
10,000	Hambro Assured	6.50
20,000	Hambro Assured	6.60
50,000	Hambro Assured	6.70
3 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.75
3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
20,000	Hambro Assured	6.65
50,000	Hambro Assured	6.70
4 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.25
3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.25
3,000	ITT London & Ed	8.70

* Limited Edition

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-494 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Clydesdale Bank 0800 445265	Savings	Instant	£25	6.50	Q'ly
Cheltenham & Glou 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	Instant b	£1,000	6.75	Y'ly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Direct Access	Postal	£10,000	7.00	Y'ly
Alliance & Leicester 0800 412214	First Cls Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.25	Y'ly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	60 Day Notice	60 day p	£500	6.50	Y'ly
Irish Permanent 0800 973321	Extra Post	60 day p	£25,000	7.10	Y'ly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£10,000	7.55	Y'ly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£25,000	7.65	Y'ly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fxd+feeder a/c	5 year	£8,575	7.55	F Y'ly
Melton Mowbray BS 01664 63937		5 year	£1,000	7.50	Y'ly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Premier+feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.45	Y'ly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£500	7.45	Y'ly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%C	10.90%	Nil

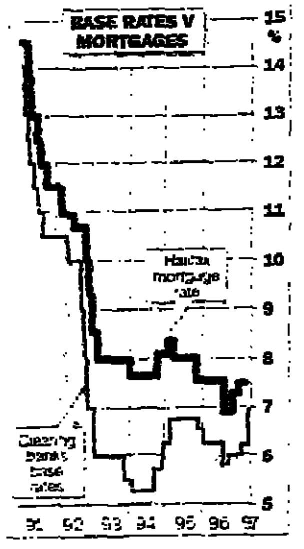
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

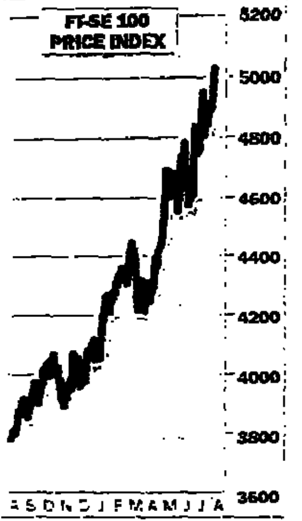
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	12.90%H	£114.29	£102.53
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	13.90%A	£112.07	£101.33
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.95	£101.45

Nb. A = Minimum age 22 years. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lender's existing customers. B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System. C = no interest free period. D = Rate includes bonus, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min-maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*¹	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500***	1mth	0645 645000
*Income Bond*¹	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond¹	6.25	5.00	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Cert†²	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond³	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
11th Ind Linked†²	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3¹	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000	60day	0645 645000

[illegible]

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Generali ....Level	£ 9,551	£10,594	£11,952
Norwich Un..........Level	£ 9,468	£10 476	£11,816
Equitable Lf ....Level	£ 9,534	£10,462	£11,675
Royal Sun All ....Level	£ 9,249	£10,398	£11,951
Sun Life ....Level	£ 9,207	£10,327	£11,840

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£8,791	£ 9,601	£10,788
Canada Life ....Level	£8,727	£ 9,543	£10,734
Generali ....Level	£8,656	£ 9,516	£10,704
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,750	£ 9,513	£10,664
Royal Sun All . .....Level	£8,509	£ 9,365	£10,612

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,567	£9,097	£ 9,761
Generali ....Level	£8,325	£8,959	£ 9,829
Canada Life . ...Level	£8,295	£8,921	£ 9,807
Prudential .... Level	£8,311	£8,848	£ 9,671
Equitable Lf..........Level	£8,277	£8,813	£ 9,547

Source: [illegible]

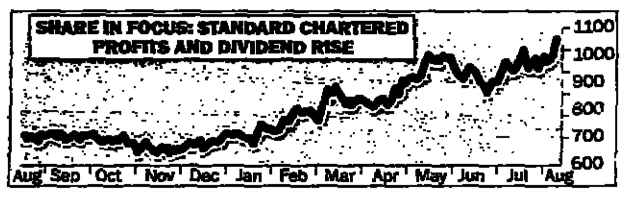
Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	119.32	7.828	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	143.40	8.107	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	160.27	8.111	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	159.30	8.161	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	155.80	7.721	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	142.84	8.226	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	165.48	8.083	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	132.12	8.102	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	155.67	8.110	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	154.91	8.150	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	159.32	8.081	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.04063%	117.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat(22/09-20/03)	9.12031%	104.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.20	£20k –	80	2.75% disc to 1.8.99
Northern Rock 0800 591500	5.24	to £250k	90	Fixed until 1.10.99
Bradford & Bingley 0800 570800	5.60	£15k +	85	2.10% discount for 2 years
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc-6 mth 3% disc-6 mths
Alliance & Leic 0800 412214	5.20	£25-300k	95	3% discount to 1.9.98

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Scarborough *0990 133149*	1.20	£30-100k	95	6.99% dsc-6 mth *2%-6mth,0.5%-1y*
Universal 0191 2320973	2.20	£20-150k	95	6% dsc-1.9.98
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Abbey National 01908 343400	4.99	to £125k	75	Fixed until 31.10.99

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury *01635 43676*	4.85	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Cheshire 0800 243278	5.84	£30-150k	95	2% discount for 2 years
Coventry 01203 555255	5.95	to £80k	95	2.25% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
Halifax plc 01422 333333	5.20	£25-250k	95	3% dsc-30.9.99, 0.5%over svr-10.04

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by [illegible]

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh. EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	582.80	616.80	+ 9.70	...
UK Equity	782.80	828.40	+14.20	...
Property	444.00	469.90	+ 0.50	...
Fixed Interest	371.00	392.60	+ 3.00	...
Money	276.70	292.90	+ 0.20	...
International	505.40	534.90	+14.20	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	214.40	225.70	+ 0.60	...
Ethical S4	171.00	180.00	+ 2.30	...
International S4	249.40	262.60	+ 4.70	...
Protected Gth S4	130.00	136.90	+ 0.10	...
Asian Pacific	234.60	247.00	+ 5.50	...
European S4	267.90	282.10	+ 5.40	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	427.30	449.80	+ 0.20	...
Equity Ser 4	304.90	321.00	+ 4.40	...
Man Ser 4	875.00	921.10	+ 9.80	...
Conv Ser 4	363.60	382.80	+ 0.50	...
Money Ser 4	363.20	382.40	+ 0.50	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	422.50	444.80	- 2.60	...
American Ser 4	857.40	902.60	+29.20	...
High Inc Ser 4	947.80	997.70	+11.80	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	239.20	251.80	- 1.40	...
Japan Ser 4	318.90	335.70	+ 6.70	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2175.70	2290.20	+44.40	...
European Fd Acc	578.50	608.90	+11.30	...
Fixed Int Acc	599.10	630.90	- 1.90	...
Gtd Money Acc	369.60	389.20	+ 0.40	...
Intl Managed Acc	860.30	905.60	+26.40	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	374.80	394.60	+ 4.20	...
Japan Fund	275.70	290.10	+ 6.10	...
N American Acc	508.60	535.30	+10.40	...
Prop Fd Acc	504.20	530.70	+ 0.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1365.00	1436.80	+26.20	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	415.00	436.90	+ 0.30	...
Equity Acc	2016.90	2123.10	+53.60	...
Property Acc	705.10	742.30	+ 1.20	...
Far East Acc	364.00	383.20	+11.30	...
Managed Capital	695.30	731.90	+14.60	...
-do- Acc	1505.30	1584.60	+31.80	...
Overseas Acc	1405.30	1479.30	+38.80	...
Gilt Edged Acc	593.00	624.30	- 2.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	1427.90	1503.10	+53.90	...
Amer Man Acc	588.40	619.40	+21.80	...
Amer Prop Acc	120.70	127.10	+ 3.40	...
Distribution Bonds	27.50	29.00	+ 0.30	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	184.40	194.10	...	...
Balced Ser 6	991.10	1043.20	+21.80	...
Opportunity Ser 6	231.10	243.20	+ 6.40	...
Distribution Ser 6	111.50	117.30	+ 0.50	6.23
UK Equities Ser 6	1479.80	1557.60	+37.70	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1480.60	1558.50	+39.00	...
North Amer Ser 6	733.50	772.10	+34.40	...
Far East Ser 6	627.40	660.40	+17.20	...
Europe Ser 6	590.00	621.00	+10.50	...
Intnl Ser 6	793.00	834.70	+24.50	...
Property Ser 6	627.60	656.40	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	514.70	541.70	- 0.70	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec 5b	207.80	218.50	- 1.30	...
Gtred Dep Ser 6	330.90	348.30	+ 0.40	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1266.80	1333.50	+29.80	...
-do- Initial	762.00	802.20	+17.90	...
Gilt Edged Acc	470.70	495.50	- 2.00	...
-do- Initial	285.60	300.70	- 1.30	...
International Acc	524.20	551.80	+10.90	...
-do- Initial	316.10	332.80	+ 6.60	...
Managed Acc	727.20	765.50	+15.80	...
-do- Initial	440.00	463.20	+ 8.30	...
Money Acc	322.90	339.90	+ 0.30	...
Property Acc	335.40	353.10	+ 0.40	...
-do- Initial	202.30	213.00	+ 0.10	...
America Acc	487.40	513.10	+12.80	...
Far East Gwth	292.30	307.70	+ 5.50	...
Financial Acc	575.20	605.50	+14.40	...
500 Accum	523.30	550.80	+ 5.60	...
Japan Acc	254.30	267.70	+ 8.00	...
Income Acc	728.40	766.80	+16.50	...
Leisure Acc	331.70	349.20	+ 1.30	...
Special Sits Acc	388.90	409.40	+10.70	...
Univ Tech Acc	215.30	226.70	+ 4.80	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	1089.43	1089.43	+19.49	...
Income Fund	1058.67	1114.39	+26.56	...
Extra Income	938.43	987.83	+18.92	...
Worldwide Gth	636.73	670.25	+ 2.16	...
Balanced Fund	935.27	984.50	+23.17	...
Smllr Cos Recov	1039.22	1093.92	+ 4.67	...
N Amer & Genrl	580.12	610.66	+17.03	...
Pacific Basin	453.08	476.93	+ 2.73	...
German Growth	316.46	333.54	- 2.49	...
Japan Growth	168.68	177.56	- 2.30	...
The UK Gth Fd	303.21	319.17	+ 7.32	...
Contl Euro Gth	197.57	207.97	- 0.01	...
Property Fund	435.63	458.56	- 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	393.61	414.33	- 0.54	...
Cash Fund	313.64	330.15	+ 0.27	...
Managed Inv	647.47	681.55	+12.08	...
Nth Amer Recov	360.10	395.37	+10.00	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gth	573.44	603.63	- 3.12	...
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	231.40	244.90	+ 4.10	...
Performance Plus	268.50	284.00	+ 9.30	...
With Profit Perf	195.60	206.90	+ 0.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	296.80	314.00	+ 5.50	...
Euro Opportunity	328.30	347.30	+ 6.50	...
North Amer Opp	301.90	319.50	+ 7.90	...
Far East Opp	235.70	249.30	+ 4.00	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	178.40	188.20	- 7.80	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	216.50	229.10	...	...
Fixed Int	243.40	257.60	- 0.60	...
Cash	175.50	185.60	+ 0.10	6.49
Overseas	309.40	327.40	+10.80	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	484.70	510.30	+ 8.60	...
UK Equity	897.80	945.10	+16.40	...
Property	298.80	314.60	...	...
Money Market	278.10	292.80	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	353.60	372.30	- 1.00	...
Japan	338.20	356.00	+ 1.70	...
North America	268.70	282.90	+ 7.00	...
International	478.10	503.30	+16.60	...
European	419.90	442.00	+ 8.30	...
Far East	174.50	183.70	+ 2.90	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	446.50	470.00	+ 8.90	...
Property	286.40	301.50	+ 0.20	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	284.80	299.80	- 0.80	...
Equity	546.60	575.40	+14.90	...
Cash	237.00	249.50	+ 0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	530.50	558.50	+10.50	...
CLife Intl Fd	429.90	452.60	+ 7.60	...
Managed Fund	953.20	1003.40	+19.10	...
Property Fund	580.50	611.10	+ 0.80	...
Equity Fund	1348.80	1419.80	+36.60	...
Gilt Edged Fd	734.70	773.40	- 2.10	...
Deposit Fund	366.70	386.00	+ 0.40	...
Investment Fd	606.40	636.70	+18.50	...
International	684.30	720.30	+12.10	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606100				
Property Fund	186.00	195.80	...	...
Managed Fund	878.60	924.90	+18.20	...
Equity Fund	533.20	561.30	+14.20	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	388.10	408.60	+ 8.00	...
Ruby	221.20	232.90	+ 5.00	...
Emerald	166.60	175.40	- 0.60	...
Equity	462.20	486.60	+ 9.20	...
Property	250.00	263.20	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	246.40	259.40	- 1.30	...
Indexed Secs	190.70	200.80	- 1.30	...
Cash	206.80	217.70	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	383.40	403.60	+17.00	...
Far East	328.70	346.10	+ 8.90	...
International	323.00	340.00	+10.30	...
Special Sits	471.70	496.60	+ 4.80	...
Intl Income	421.50	443.70	+ 8.50	...
European	500.70	527.10	+14.10	...
Japanese	131.90	138.90	+ 4.00	...
SE Asia	459.50	483.70	+17.40	...
With Profits Reg	194.20	204.50	+ 0.30	...
-do- Spec	194.20	204.50	+ 0.30	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	466.60	491.20	+11.30	...
Equity	597.70	629.20	+13.90	...
Property	233.90	246.30	+ 0.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	321.10	338.10	- 2.20	...
Index Linked	204.10	214.90	- 1.70	...
Cash	285.90	301.00	+ 0.40	...
Nth American	486.10	511.70	+23.60	...
Far East Acc	358.70	377.60	+16.30	...
International Acc	410.70	432.40	+14.50	...
Special Sits	733.50	772.20	+10.90	...
European Flex	743.60	782.80	+26.90	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units): Key 1	264.32	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker 1	409.97	...	...	...
-do- Cash	223.18	234.93	+ 0.16	...
-do- Equity	767.29	807.66	+20.57	...
-do- Fxd Int	433.88	456.51	- 0.06	...
-do- Managed	541.17	569.65	+12.49	...
-do- Property	379.60	399.58	+ 3.87	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	217.36	228.81	+ 0.10	...
-do- Cash Inv	349.48	367.89	+ 0.41	...
-do- Equity Cap	2038.71	2146.02	+64.22	...
-do- Equity Inv	3277.90	3450.43	+103.49	...
-do- Fixed Cap	465.60	490.12	- 0.22	...
-do- Fixed Inv	748.62	788.03	+ 0.17	...
-do- Index Cap	216.79	228.20	- 1.61	...
-do- Index Inv	348.57	366.93	- 2.35	...
-do- Mngd Cap	793.94	835.94	+22.05	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1276.52	1343.72	+39.00	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (S) 1	1138.16	...	+17.11	...
Var Ann (S) 1	125.37	...	+ 1.56	...
Prime: Managed	546.10	574.90	+14.40	...
Prime: UK Equity	713.90	751.50	+20.00	...
Prime: Int Equity	389.40	409.90	+13.70	...
Prime: Property	263.60	277.50	+ 0.50	...
Prime: Fxd Int	274.10	288.60	+ 1.20	...
Prime Index-Lnk	192.40	202.60	+ 0.80	...
Prime: Cash	227.90	239.90	+ 0.30	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744040				
Managed Fund	1461.90	1538.80	+ 2.60	...
Equity II	2179.60	2294.30	-27.30	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut With Pfts (566) 1	115.60	---	- 0.10	...
Secure (2) 1	110.00	...	...	...
Managed (2) 1	132.70	...	+ 3.00	...
Equity Mngd (2) 1	134.00	...	+ 3.50	...
Adventurous (2) 1	137.80	...	+ 4.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bristol & West (2) 1	111.70	...	+ 0.20	...
Equity Mgd S1	325.00	342.20	+ 9.00	...
Managed S1	321.20	338.20	+ 7.50	...
Adventurous S1	364.80	378.80	+ 9.00	...
Managed (2)	217.30	228.80	+ 5.10	...
Eagle/Mid Uls	423.90	439.30	+11.80	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) 1	115.50	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) 1	110.50	...	...	...
Managed (2) 1	132.30	...	+ 3.50	...
Equity Mngd (2) 1	135.40	...	+ 4.40	...
Adventurous (2) 1	129.50	...	+ 5.10	...
Bristol & West (2) 1	112.20	...	+ 0.10	...
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	427.30	449.80	+ 7.00	...
UK Equity	589.00	620.10	+12.90	...
Stewardship	479.20	504.50	+ 5.90	...
Overseas Equity	401.40	422.60	+ 5.90	...
North American	246.40	259.40	+ 4.40	...
Pacific Basin	198.60	209.10	+ 1.20	...
European	389.40	409.90	+ 6.10	...
Property	195.60	205.90	- 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	286.90	302.10	- 1.40	...
Index Linked	192.80	203.00	- 1.40	...
Cash	222.90	234.70	+ 0.30	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	639.90	673.50	+ 0.20	
Managed	958.40	1008.80	+17.30	...
Deposit	380.80	400.80	+ 0.40	...
Property	530.30	558.20	+ 0.60	...
American	688.40	724.60	+14.80	...
Australian	734.40	773.00	+10.70	...
European	916.20	964.40	+22.60	...
Income Acc	1026.40	1080.40	+10.70	...
-do- Dist	559.10	588.60	+ 8.40	4.84
International	422.00	444.20	+ 9.10	...
Japan Smaller	364.60	383.70	- 1.70	...
Singapore & Mal	473.00	497.80	+10.70	...
Smaller Cos	607.10	639.00	+18.00	...
Tokyo Fund	644.80	678.70	+ 8.70	...
UK Equity	826.50	870.00	+16.20	...
CCM Vangd Mg	1018.40	1072.00	+23.60	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	371.70	391.30	+10.10	...
GT Plan Wrlde	626.30	659.30	+ 8.60	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	866.50	866.50	+16.60	...
-do- Inv A	866.40	912.10	+17.50	...
UK Equity	563.80	593.60	+12.50	...
Gilt Plus	234.70	247.20	+ 0.10	...
Managed	394.30	415.10	+ 8.00	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	285.80	300.70	+ 6.50	...
Unitised Profit	165.20	173.90	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	418.00	439.90	+ 9.60	...
Fixed Int	230.20	242.30	- 0.80	...
Index-Linked	185.20	194.90	- 1.00	...
Cash Deposit	192.40	202.40	+ 0.20	...
Property	191.90	201.90	+ 0.20	...
International	232.00	244.10	+ 4.40	...
American	277.90	292.40	+ 9.30	...
Japan	232.00	244.10	+10.10	...
Japan Smllr Cos	237.60	250.00	+10.30	...
European	267.30	281.30	+ 7.70	...
Pacific Fund	334.80	352.30	+ 6.00	...
Conv Life	173.00	182.60	- 4.30	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

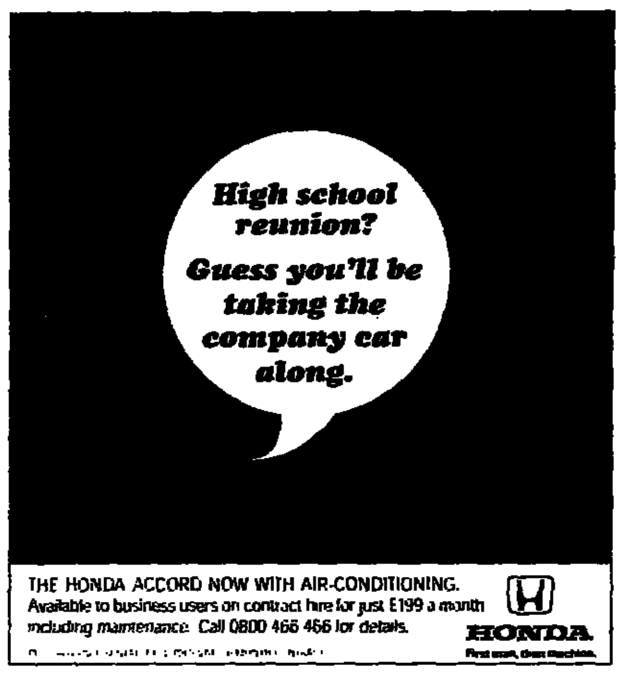
	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
For AIB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	823.30	875.80	+25.70	2.16
General Inc	682.00	725.60	+21.20	2.16
UK Growth Acc	569.10	605.50	+17.00	2.10
UK Growth Inc	363.90	387.20	+10.90	2.10
Higher Inc Acc #	988.30	1051.40	+22.00	4.55
Higher Inc Inc #	518.50	551.60	+11.40	4.55
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	222.00	234.50	-0.10	5.41
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.60	100.10		5.41
Nth America	449.40	478.10	+22.20	..
Europe	458.60	487.90	+14.00	
Brit Emrgt	113.50	120.80	+3.30	1.61
Brit Fndmtls Acc	135.50	144.20	+2.10	4.26
Brit Fndmtls Inc	89.38	95.09	+1.38	4.26
Global Opps	122.50	130.40	+5.40	.
Balanced Acc	74.17	78.91	+1.88	1.93
Balanced Inc	68.95	72.93	+1.75	1.93
Japan Acc	45.90	48.84	+2.06	..
Pac Basin Acc	435.80	463.70	+17.30	0.60
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	136.30	144.60	-1.20	6.35
High Inc Equity	213.40	226.70†	+3.60	4.25
Worldwide Bond	269.70	285.50†	+3.20	3.89
American Growth	536.40	572.60	+21.10	0.29
Asian Pacific	369.00	394.70	+12.90	0.35
Assets & Earnngs	332.80	355.90	+6.50	2.63
Euro Capital Acc	244.60	261.80	+6.20	0.76
Extra Inc	43.83	46.63†	+0.17	8.43
General	304.10	323.50†	+5.10	2.84
Global Opps	86.05	91.54	+2.18	0.44
Japan	104.50	111.80	+2.90	
Managed Inc	51.78	55.08†	+0.40	4.08
Mastertrust	196.10	209.70	+3.60	1.06
US Emerging Cos	223.40	238.90	+12.80	.
Ethical	85.15	90.58	+1.52	2.02
International	161.30	171.60	+4.10	0.51
Dividend & Growth	78.62	83.64†	+1.20	4.02
Global Gold & Sec	77.39	82.69	+0.13	2.44
Latin America	103.60	110.20	+2.50	0.35
Capital Reserve	149.90	149.90	+0.10	4.86
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	108.50	115.40†	+2.50	2.02
Equity Income	152.30	162.00	+1.90	4.08
Extra Income	290.00	308.30	+2.40	5.70
Smaller Cos	103.00	109.50	+0.20	1.75
International	135.50	144.10	+2.30	1.31
ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
American	81.78	85.00	+3.03	
Emerging Mkts	86.38	89.95†	+2.81	0.06
European	176.98	184.03	+5.08	.
Extra Income #	55.62	58.53	+0.95	5.11
Far East Emg Eco	132.29	138.76†	+2.67	0.39
Fixed Interest #	26.43	27.48†	+0.11	8.54
Fund Inv Tst #	168.35	176.74†	+0.23	9.63
Japan	194.19	201.75†	+8.34	
Latin American	87.83	92.18†	+3.58	.
Pacific	86.84	91.16	+2.41	0.18
Property	84.05	88.22†	+0.63	1.49
UK Emerging Cos	67.22	72.65†	-0.18	1.09
UK Growth	67.21	69.98	+0.90	1.34
Abn World Port #	94.26	99.20	+1.96	2.40
Ethical	84.55	87.93	+1.17	0.98
Aberdeen Gar Inc #	50.65	50.65	+0.05	6.93
For Abtrust see Aberdeen				
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	170.25	183.07	+5.47	0.68
UK Equity	113.14	120.84	+3.17	2.86
UK Equity & Bd	84.18	88.03	+0.32	5.26
UK Smlr Cos	51.21	54.78	+0.36	1.74
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	896.31	909.85	+5.68	3.80
Inv Fd Acc	907.69	921.52	+6.73	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	160.54	161.58	-0.32	6.65
Fxd Int Sec Acc	164.61	165.27	-0.31	.
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	920.73	907.03	-1.78	3.78
Investment Acc	4319.86	4385.16	+56.76	.
Fixed Int Inc	130.16	138.69	-0.88	8.88
Fixed Int Acc	253.04	254.06	-1.35	..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	91.59	96.49	-1.25	5.19
Beck Bio-Tech	40.04	43.43	+1.33	
Acorn Ethical Tst	209.48	219.97	+13.47	0.42
City Fin Assets	85.47	89.75	+1.00	1.85
City Fin Intl	100.23	105.25	+2.46	0.06
Frnds Hse Cap	334.04	355.38†	+3.47	1.67
Beckley Wrld Gth	158.87	168.40	+4.80	.
Share Utilities	74.42	75.92	-0.39	4.58
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	69.80	74.07	+2.50	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	102.59	108.91	+4.56	..
Dragon Growth	80.30	85.88	+2.74	0.31
Equity High Inc	108.67	114.80	+2.06	3.41
-do- Accum	169.97	170.33	+3.09	3.41
Extra Income Inc	27.89	29.35†	+0.01	8.47
Extra Income Acc	32.80	33.68	+0.01	8.47
European Gwth	84.06	88.95	+2.97	0.03
European	35.67	38.36	+1.88	...
General Equity	127.27	134.32	+2.88	2.46
Japan Growth	46.22	49.17	+1.78	
Pedigree Gwth	74.80	79.15	+2.03	1.91
Pfd Smr Cos Inc	38.96	41.25	+0.42	1.43
-do- Accum	41.75	44.18	+0.45	1.43
Retirement Inc #	32.14	34.19	+0.51	5.48
Special Sits	52.47	56.42	+1.57	2.74
UK & Overseas	73.93	78.28	+2.82	0.43
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	79.73	83.05†	+2.06	3.72
Capital	98.56	102.66†	+2.84	2.14
High Income	54.20	56.45†	-0.20	6.55
Top 50	70.56	73.49†	+1.71	2.19
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	213.97	222.91	+3.38	4.33
Long Gilt	47.02	48.98†	-0.79	5.72
Monthly Inc Plus	54.16	58.42	-0.40	7.94
Preference Share	51.19	53.33†	-0.51	7.31
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	154.72	161.18†	-0.75	5.56
Managed Fund	86.68	92.38	+2.27	2.45
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	50.48	52.59	+0.38	1.61
-do- Accum	60.37	62.88	+0.45	1.61

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	294.30	314.40	+15.70	..
Income & Growth	267.40	284.50	+7.30	3.54
-do- Accum	437.50	465.40	+12.00	3.54
Intl Growth	511.20	544.30	+24.10	.
-do- Accum	567.80	604.30	+26.50	
Japan & Gen	169.78	180.00	+7.20	.
-do- Accum	171.40	181.80	+7.20	.
Monthly Inc #	231.10	245.80†	+5.50	4.26
-do- Accum #	238.00	253.20†	+6.20	4.26
Managed Port Inc	138.80	148.10	+4.50	1.23
-do- Accum	152.70	160.70	+4.90	1.23
Quarterly Income #	63.53	68.08	+1.61	5.07
-do- Accum #	75.16	80.41	+1.90	5.07
Recovery	368.00	393.60†	+11.00	
-do- Accum	434.40	464.60†	+12.60	...
UK Growth	77.01	81.93	+2.59	1.79
-do- Accum	85.09	90.52	+2.85	1.79
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715635 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	81.28	86.40	+1.92	
FP Am Smllr Cos	232.70	248.30	+10.10	.
FP Asia Growth	318.00	339.20	+8.50	..
FP Australian	483.20	515.40†	+6.20	
FP Equity Dist	546.50	582.90	+16.30	2.01
-do- Accum	1233.00	1315.00	+37.00	2.01
FP Euro Gth	381.30	406.70	+10.70	
-do- Accum	417.70	445.50	+11.70	
FP Intl Bond	57.05	60.37†	+1.08	3.85
FP Intl Gth Dist	46.09	49.16	+1.21	
-do- Accum	67.70	72.21	+1.77	...
FP Pac Basin Acc	245.90	262.20	+4.80	.
FP Income #	67.21	71.75	+1.02	4.36
-do- Accum #	244.10	260.30	+3.70	4.36
FP Jap Smllr Cos	235.30	250.90	-1.10	.
FP Monthly Dist #	82.90	88.42†	+0.49	4.71
FP Stly Deposit	100.50	100.50†	+0.10	5.27
FP Tokyo	81.00	86.40	+1.37	
FP UK Focus	51.51	54.94	+1.56	1.40
FP UK Growth	241.30	257.30†	+6.60	1.59
-do- Accum	496.80	529.90	+13.70	1.59
Stewardship Dist	457.60	488.10	+5.90	1.53
-do- Accum	582.10	620.90	+7.40	1.53
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	76.95	82.08†	+0.91	5.08
-do- Accum #	109.70	117.00	+1.30	5.08
N Am Stshp Dist	165.10	176.10	+3.80	
-do- Accum	177.80	189.60	+4.20	.
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	119.60	120.20	+2.30	2.90
Inst Ethical Ac #	120.90	121.50	+2.30	2.90
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	150.40	160.00	+7.40	0.46
Open Cap Gth Acc	153.40	163.10	+2.70	..
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	132.10	140.50†	+1.60	2.46
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	143.10	152.20	+1.70	2.46
Opp Cp Gth Ic Ic #	136.10	144.70†	+1.40	3.52
Opp Cp Gth Ic Ac #	149.50	159.80	+1.70	3.52
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 681 108/7				
CANDA	359.10	381.00	+11.30	1.51
Cash	49.30	50.04†	+0.03	4.56
Growth Portfolio	109.00	116.00	+2.70	.
Income Portfolio	85.19	90.39†	+1.39	2.73
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 238 6441				
Special Sits	239.70	256.40†	+2.50	0.50
Dividend	115.60	123.60†	+3.00	3.64
Intl Gth & Inc	289.00	308.90†	+6.80	1.28
UK & Gen	57.25	61.23	+1.48	1.11
Fund of Funds	85.47	91.41	+1.91	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smlr Cos	256.80	274.10	+11.70	0.12

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
New Japan	78.02	82.39	-0.68	.
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	212.40	225.90†	+5.90	.
Income #	247.98	263.80†	+4.28	3.93
UK Growth	94.10	100.10†	+1.11	1.85
Intl Growth	104.07	110.71†	+3.33	0.51
Ecology	111.42	118.53	+2.64	0.74
European	250.10	266.06†	+9.54	0.19
Far Eastern	365.26	388.57†	+12.45	..
UK Special Sits	60.75	64.60	+0.49	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	62.61	66.78	+1.74	0.51
High Income #	57.63	61.47	+0.81	4.56
Financial Opps	50.49	53.65	+0.84	.

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	217.18	229.50	+4.60	4.75
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	133.00	141.48	+5.64	0.28
Intl Bond	62.63	65.79	+1.10	3.85
Intl Equity Growth	104.40	110.90	+4.46	0.37
N Amer Growth	177.12	187.59	+4.46	0.47
Special Sits Growth	33.24	35.35	+0.98	2.11
UK Growth	556.12	590.55	+17.02	2.47
-do- Accum	774.34	823.76	+23.74	2.47
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1616.50	1637.70	+35.30	2.60
Income #	1164.00	1182.00†	+22.10	4.30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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7254				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	105.50	109.10	-0.10	6.59
Euro Prv Inc	125.00	133.00†	+3.50	2.75
-do- Accum	125.30	133.30†	+3.60	2.75
Gilt Yield	123.00	129.80	-0.80	6.23
Global Income	263.50	266.70†	+7.30	2.79
High Yield	194.40	206.80†	+2.40	4.51
-do- Accum	662.60	704.30†	+8.30	4.51
Money Market	100.77	100.77†	+0.09	6.21
Smlr Cos Dsr	63.33	67.27†	+0.28	3.84
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	1129.00	1145.00	+11.00	3.40
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	202.70	213.50	+10.70	
Asian Growth	342.70	364.60	+11.30	
-do- Accum	402.70	429.40	+13.20	
North American	143.90	153.10	+5.10	
European Special	156.90	166.90	+3.20	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	184.50	188.10†	.	3.63
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Inc #	100.70	103.80†	+0.40	6.66
M & S Inv Ptflio	207.20	213.60†	+3.80	2.05
-do- Accum	251.10	258.80†	+4.50	2.05
UK Sel Ptflio	188.20	194.10	+3.69	2.10
-do- Accum	231.80	238.80	+4.40	2.10
UK 100 Cos	149.20	149.20	+2.80	2.21
-do- Accum	153.00	153.00	+2.90	2.21
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	75.19	79.99	-0.43	3.09
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	99.66	105.89	+2.30	3.07
European	126.79	134.50	+1.40	0.33

Profit-taking in blue chips

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
469	407½	Allied Domecq	454½	+12	6.0	13.6
628	410	Bulmer (HP)	422½		4.4	41.5
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	43½	+1	9.8	10.8
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	962½	+25	1.7	22.8
631	425½	Grand Met	585½	-3½	3.2	19.1
627	424	Guinness	591	-5½	3.4	16.9
388	307½	Highland Dist	318½	+7	3.3	14.9
336	233	Matthew Clark	238		12.6	7.5
160½	52½	Merrydown Wt	58½		6.5	14.7
2089½	1462½	SA Breweries	1696½	-17½	2.0	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	949½	ABN-AMRO	1521½	+86½	2.1	21.7
877	710	Abbey Natl	848	-11½	4.1	13.7
655	532½	Alliance & Leic	609	-8	3.3	15.0
563	388½	Allied Irish	567		3.2	16.0
489½	363½	Aus New Z	481½	-4½	3.9	
4671½	2875	Bank America	4284½	-228½		
452	291½	Bank Scotland	436½	-10½	2.4	13.3
1462	978½	Barclays	1421	-26½	3.0	13.4
764	517½	Bk of Ireland	764		2.6	16.9
8626½	6008½	Citicorp	8571½	-268½		
1758½	1268½	Commerzbk	1659½	+28½	2.9	...
892½	558½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	839½	+25	0.6	
4321½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	4112½	+121½	1.5	
1300	758½	Espirito Santo	1300	+6½	2.9	
947½	694½	Fuji Bank Y	853	+41½	0.5	
2333	1372½	HSBC	2286	-40½	2.5	18.4
2236½	1241	HSBC HK	2186½	-31	2.6	17.6
789	701½	Halifax	733	-13½	2.5	21.8
610	403½	Irish Perm	605	+5	2.7	
785½	424	Lloyds TSB	753½	-24½	2.4	21.8
912½	669½	Nat Aust Bk	909½	-2½	4.5	12.3
896½	653½	Nat West	843	-4½	4.5	13.1
665	508	Ryl Bk Scot	623½	-20	3.4	13.6
1089½	681	Stand Chart	1061½	-20	1.8	18.4
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		2.0	
397½	315½	Westpac	397½	+½	3.8	....
373½	284	Woolwich	298½	-6	3.3	17.5

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 10% 5%

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index

RACING: CONDITIONS IDEAL FOR MAKIN-TRAINED SPRINTER IN COMPETITIVE HAYDOCK HANDICAP

Crowded Avenue to find clear path

By Chris McGrath

MICK EASTERBY has had what can only be described as a trying week. The Yorkshire trainer's fine season was rudely interrupted on Wednesday by a £2,500 fine under Rule 151, relating to "non-triers".

Protesting his innocence, the trainer describes the horse in question — who landed a gamble at Carlisle after finishing down the field at Doncaster — as "a nutcase" who once ran clean through a running rail. "How can you back a horse," he asked, "when you don't know which way it's going to go?"

No such uncertainty has afflicted those following the most improved horse in Easterby's yard, Blessingindisguise. He has been going forward, fast, all summer. Though he has gone up 34lb since the first of five wins, at Redcar in May, he will again be fancied for the Coral Handicap at Haydock today, one of three races televised by BBC, having shown a touch of arrogance winning a similar contest at Ascot 15 days ago. Mick Kinane returns from Ireland to ride again, hoping that he can defy a 9lb higher mark.

But he could be about to hit the wall. Today's race seems assured of a frantic early pace, with front-runners spread across the track. Blessingindisguise is one of a dozen to race prominently, and things could be set up for a horse coming from behind. Given that high numbers tend to hold an advantage here, that horse could be **Crowded Avenue** (3.50), who is drawn 15 and will love the ground (so long as thunderstorms stay away).

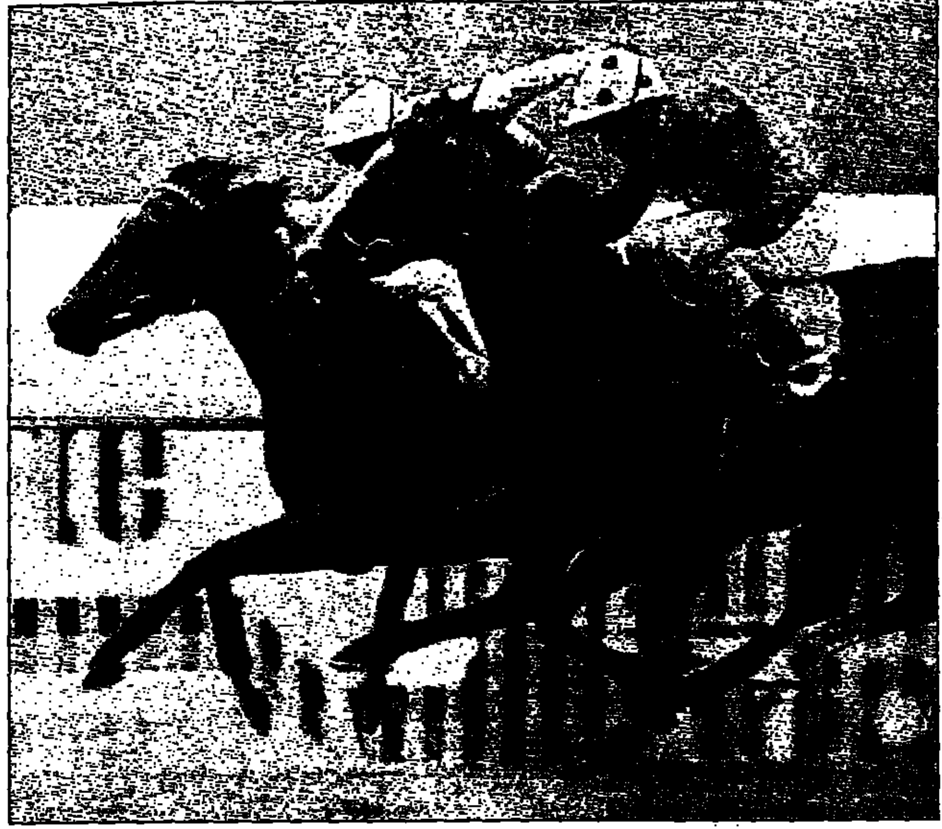
Crowded Avenue has tended to show his best form in the second half of each season, and there was renewed dash to his effort in group company at Goodwood last time, when barely two lengths behind Averti. While he is all about speed, with wins at sharp tracks like Goodwood and Epsom, he won over the stiff five at Sandown last season; the key to him is the way the race is run, and conditions should be ideal today.

Others drawn high worth a look at big prices are Swynford Dream and Lord High Admiral, but the biggest danger could be Royal Dome. He won last year's race out of stall one, and should reverse Doncaster form with Fairy Prince back at this trip.

Another attempting to repeat his success on last year's card is **Tamayaz** (3.15), who won the Petros Rose of Lancaster Stakes by five lengths. The Godolphin string has returned to form since his disappointing run in France, and he will relish the going. Geoff Wragg's Germano could prove more of a staying type, while Romanov, the Derby third, had a leg injury at two and has never run on faster ground than good.

Kinane's trip should still prove worthwhile through **Irish Accord** (2.45), who has hinted at better on a number of occasions and did not get much of a run at Goodwood last time. An energetic type who looks as though he will benefit from strong handling, he is another who savours fast ground.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Romanov, nearside, returns for the Rose of Lancaster Stakes at Haydock today

NEWMARKET

THUNDERER

2.00 Sir Ricky
2.30 Allinson's Mate
3.05 *Tezaab*
3.35 Parisian Lady
4.10 **MADLY SHARP** (nap)
4.40 American Whisper
5.10 *Hanan*

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
4.40 Invermark. 5.10 **HANAN** (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

2.00 MONTANA WINES MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,753: 1m 4f) (10 runners)

101	(2)	03	DARIEN 31 (K Abdulla) R Charlton 3-8-10	T Sprake	–
102	(7)	02	JAZZ TRACK 17 (Mrs J Magnier) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-10	S Whitworth	88
103	(3)	5	JUST ALEX 15 (T Murray) T Mills 3-8-10	J Quinn	82
104	(4)	0-433	MARSUL 8 (V) (H al-Maktoum) J Gosden 3-8-10	G Hind	[illegible]
105	(8)	00	SIGNED AND SEALED 15 (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 3-8-10	A Morris	69
106	(5)	0-42	SIR RICKY 15 (W Said) R Charlton 3-8-10	Pat Eddery	96
107	(9)	64	BINA GARDENS 15 (K Abdulla) H Cecil 3-8-5	W Ryan	88
108	(1)	55	GALLANT HEIGHTS 15 (M Evans) G Bravery 3-8-5	D R McCabe	91
109	(6)		PANORAMA (Lord Halifax) L Cumani 3-8-5	R Ffrench (3)	–
110	(10)	0	SNOWCAP 15 (B Rochelle) G Wragg 3-8-5	A McGlone	–

BETTING: 2-1 Sir Ricky, 3-1 Marsul, 7-1 Bina Gardens, 8-1 Jazz Track, Panorama, 12-1 Darien, Gallant Heights, Snowcap, 16-1 others.

1996: FINE DETAIL 3-8-5 W Ryan (15-2) R Charlton 8 ran

2.30 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS CLAIMING STAKES
(£3,785: 7f) (11 runners)

201	(7)	404006-	POLAR PROSPECT 307 (D,F) (Elbay Racing) B Hanbury 4-9-6	J Stack	72
202	(5)	5/3/000	VARNISHING DAY 52 (B,D,G) P Chapple-Hyam 5-9-1	S Whitworth	72
203	(8)	-600050	HOH RETURNS 10 (F) (D Allport) M Bell 4-9-0	M Fenton	[illegible]
204	(3)	6142300	ALLINSON'S MATE 9 (B,D,F,G,S) T Barron 9-8-13	Kimberley Hart (5)	87
205	(2)	3161454	BIG BEN 10 (BF,D,F) (Lady Davis) R Hannon 3-8-11	Pat Eddery	78
206	(4)	3000-00	CLASS DISTINCTION 19 (F) (E M A Partnership) R Hannon 3-8-11	S Sanders	70
207	(10)	2030-00	RISE UP SINGING 12 (B,CD,F,G,S) (Mrs R Brown) W Musson 9-8-9	R Cochrane	60
208	(11)	000/10-	SOUTHERN MEMORIES 669 (F,G) W Musson 7-8-9	D R McCabe	–
209	(1)	302	WINDY TREAT 8 (H Salem) E Dunlop 3-8-9	G Carter	70
210	(6)	4600000	MANABAR 51 (G) (K Rayner) M Polglase 5-8-8	T G McLaughlin	64
211	(9)	0	JUST BLINK 35 (J Miller) S C Williams 4-8-6	A McGlone	–

BETTING: 7-2 Hoh Returns, 4-1 Allinson's Mate, Big Ben, 6-1 Windy Treat, 8-1 Polar Prospect, 10-1 Rise Up Singing, 12-1 Varnishing Day, 14-1 others.

1996: ORTOLAN 3-9-0 Dane O'Neill (2-1) R Hannon 14 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
B Palling	4	16	25.0	Pat Eddery	114	561	20.3
H Cecil	70	282	24.8	R Ffrench	6	43	14.0
R Flower	4	17	23.5	D R McCabe	13	95	13.7
T Mills	6	30	20.0	S Sanders	12	88	13.6
R Charlton	19	100	19.0	T Sprake	6	53	11.3
D Loder	23	147	15.6	W Ryan	29	290	10.0
J Gosden	49	323	15.2	M Hills	35	350	10.0
J Watts	6	43	14.0	J Stack	9	90	10.0

3.05 DANDELION LADIES INVITATION HANDICAP
C4

(£4,299: 1m) (13 runners)

301	(4)	-301001	KING ATHELSTAN 21 (D,F) (I Gosse) B McMahon 9-11-7	Miss E Ramsden	95
302	(9)	0020000	MONTONE 49 (D,F,G,S) (B Sherazi) J Jenkins 7-11-2	Miss C Gatta	92
303	(7)	002201	MEZZORAMIO 18 (V,CD,F) (T Pryke) K Morgan 5-11-0	Mrs D Arbuthnot	85
304	(5)	400-015	SANDICLIFFE 19 (F) (Ash Pines) J Toller 4-10-11	Miss E J-Houghton	91
305	(12)	6045050	FORT KNOX 14 (B,CD,F,G) (Mrs D Hedding) R Flower 6-10-8	Miss R Clark	98
306	(11)	1300050	CATS BOTTOM 26 (D,F) A Newcombe 5-10-6	Miss L Jarven	[illegible]
307	(1)	2003530	MUTAHADETH 3 (B,D) (G S D Imports Ltd) D Shaw 3-10-4	Miss A Sloane	95
308	(2)	5506033	TEZAAB 4 (A Saeed Thani) B Hanbury 3-10-4	Miss J Allison	91
309	(10)	3421060	DON'T DROP BOMBS 8 (V,D,F,G) (Miss J Feilden) D Thom 8-9-12	Miss C Nicol	94
310	(3)	5463400	MISS BARCELONA 22 (M Polglase) M Polglase 3-9-10	Miss J Feilden	84
311	(8)	0555400	FLAGSTAFF 29 (C Neal) K Burke 4-9-6	Mrs E Van Orshoven	98
312	(6)	000-000	ALISURA 47 (B) (Miss J Feilden) D Thom 4-9-5	Miss U Schmutzler	98
			RESERVE		
313	(-)	82035	CHALKY DANCER 31 (T Claydon) H Collingridge 5-9-5	–	97

BETTING: 3-1 Mezzoramio, 4-1 Sandicliffe, 5-1 King Athelstan, 6-1 Cats Bottom, Tezaab, 12-1 Fort Knox, Don't Drop Bombs, 16-1 others

1996: MEZZORAMIO 4-10-9 Birgit Roesch (5-1 jt-fav) K Morgan 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

KING ATHELSTAN beat The Barnsley Belle head in 13-runner apprentice handicap at Warwick (7f, good to firm). MEZZORAMIO beat Present Generation ¾l in 15-runner handicap at Yarmouth (7f, good to firm). SANDICLIFFE beat Ar Hyd Y Knos 1¾l in 14-runner claiming handicap at Folkestone (7f, good to firm). CATS BOTTOM about 4l 5th of 18 to Mislemani in claiming handicap (1m, good). MUTAHADETH about 3l 3rd of 13 to Polarize in selling handicap at Thirsk (1m, good). CHALKY DANCER 3½l 3rd of 15 to Prime Partner in apprentice selling handicap at Ripon (1m, good) with FLAGSTAFF (5lb better off) about 3l 5th.
Selection: KING ATHELSTAN

3.35 ENZA NEW ZEALAND SWEET SOLERA STAKES
C4

(Listed race: 2-Y-O: £9,420: 7f) (8 runners)

401	(8)	560311	JAY GEE 7 (C,F,G) (J Guest) G Margarson 8-11	G Carter	98
402	(1)	102	BELLADERA 15 (BF,G) (Mrs D Wright) N Tinkler 8-8	R Cochrane	95
403	(3)	2033	DIAMOND WHITE 7 (P Scott) G Bravery 8-8	D R McCabe	93
404	(6)	12	ELOQUENT 16 (F) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Prescott 8-8	G Duffield	94
405	(7)	11	PARISIAN LADY 28 (F) (A Gorrie) A Newcombe 8-8	G Hind	96
406	(4)	2	PARTICULAR FRIEND 22 (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-8	W Ryan	89
407	(2)	132	SILENT TRIBUTE 30 (G) (Mrs E Harris) M Bell 8-8	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
408	(5)	10	STOP OUT 21 (G) (S Macdonald-Buchanan & Partners) H Morrison 8-8	C Rutter	82

BETTING: 15-8 Eloquent, 3-1 Silent Tribute, 7-2 Parisian Lady, 6-1 Particular Friend, 10-1 Jay Gee, Belladera, 14-1 Diamond White, 20-1 Stop Out.

1996: CATWALK 8-8 M Hills (20-1) W Haggas 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

JAY GEE beat Ciel Of Silver 2l in 15-runner handicap here (6f, good) with DIAMOND WHITE (4l better off) 1¼l 3rd.
BELLADERA beat Happy Days 1½l in 9-runner maiden at York (6f, good). ELOQUENT short-head 2nd of 6 to Woodland Melody in listed race at Sandown (7f, good to firm). PARISIAN LADY beat Silver Strand 9l in 9-runner auction novice at Salisbury (6f, good to firm). PARTICULAR FRIEND neck 2nd of 11 to Glorosa in maiden over course and distance (good to soft). SILENT TRIBUTE head 2nd of 4 to Baltic State in listed race over course and distance (good to firm).
Selection: JAY GEE

Tabor spends $1.4m

MICHAEL TABOR purchased the top lot at the yearling sales in Saratoga on Thursday. The owner of Entrepreneur, represented by Demi O'Byrne, went to $1.4 million to buy a colt by the leading sire, Gulch. The colt is closely related to A P Indy and Summer Squall, top-class performers in America.

4.10 JOE JENNINGS BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP
C4

(£19,040: 7f) (17 runners)

501	(16)	06-0001	MASTER BOOTS 14 (D,S) (C Brasher) D Loder 4-10-0	C Lowther (5)	92
502	(13)	105620	CHICKAWICKA 8 (D,G,S) (Merthyr Motor Auctions) B Palling 6-10-0	T Sprake	94
503	(7)	026-000	MADLY SHARP 45 (D,F) (Lord Swaythling) J Watts 6-9-12	Pat Eddery	90
504	(3)	0004020	HIGHBORN 30 (D,F,G) (Yorkshire R C) P Felgate 8-9-11	W Ryan	97
505	(12)	0-02010	NEUWEST 30 (D,F,G) (P Green) R Akehurst 5-9-11	S Sanders	95
506	(2)	0302-04	TOP BANANA 81 (F,G) (H Candy) H Candy 6-9-10	Sarah Jackson (7)	90
507	(11)	631-310	COSMIC PRINCE 24 (D,F,G) (Cosmic Pros) M Jarvis 3-9-6	R Cochrane	95
508	(5)	00-6501	ROYAL MARK 3 (CD,F,G) T Barron 4-9-6 (5ex)	G Hind	98
509	(10)	00-6000	DOUBLE BOUNCE 7 (F,G) (Mrs P Scott-Dunn) P Makin 7-9-5	J Quinn	92
510	(15)	40-0324	VOLLEY 7 (F) (R Villers) D Chappell 4-9-2	G Carter	96
511	(17)	120-600	PLEADING 24 (F,S) (S Broke) H Candy 4-9-1	C Rutter	97
512	(6)	5621-0	URSA MAJOR 15 (K Blake) P Kelleway 3-8-12	F Jovine	89
513	(3)	1111000	PHILISTAR 9 (F,G) (N Shields) K Burke 4-8-8	B Doyle	[illegible]
514	(8)	1000-10	ZUGUDI 22 (F) (Sheikh A Al Sabah) K Mahdi 3-8-7	D O'Donohoe (3)	96
515	(4)	422100	POKER SCHOOL 18 (G) (D Wedley) N Callaghan 3-8-7	G Duffield	–
516	(14)	1600030	BLUE FLYER 10 (D,F) (B Scott) R Ingram 4-8-3	A McGlone	98
517	(1)	2365422	SIGNS AND WONDERS 7 (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 3-7-10	R Ffrench (3)	95

BETTING: 11-2 Cosmic Prince, 8-1 Master Boots, Philistar, 10-1 Chickawicka, Madly Sharp, 12-1 others.

1996: POLAR PRINCE 3-8-13 P Robinson (9-1) M Jarvis 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

MASTER BOOTS beat Prima Silk neck in 16-runner handicap at Southwell (7f, AW). CHICKAWICKA neck 2nd of 11 to Grey Kingdom in handicap at Epsom (7f, soft). HIGHBORN 1½l 2nd of 11 to Elland in handicap over course and distance (good to soft). COSMIC PRINCE beat Gee Bee Dream 2½l in 17-runner handicap at Epsom (7f, good). ROYAL MARK beat Weetman's Weigh 2½l in 7-runner handicap at Newcastle (7f, good to firm). PHILISTAR 3½l 9th of 20 to Fly To The Stars at Goodwood (1m, good to firm). BLUE FLYER 5¼l 3rd of 19 to Waypoint in handicap at Newbury (7f, good to firm).
Selection: ROYAL MARK (nap)

4.40 AUCKLAND HANDICAP (£5,726: 1m 2f) (10)
C4

601	(1)	221-001	FARMOST 17 (D,F,S) (W Sturt) M Prescott 4-9-10	G Duffield	93
602	(7)	0-32140	ORSAY 28 (D,G,S) (D Deer) W Muir 5-9-10	T Sprake	95
603	(4)	4200-65	SILVER GROOM 106 (D,F,S) (Silver Darling Pbs) R Akehurst 7-9-6	S Sanders	90
604	(3)	82120	SCOSS 43 (BF,D,F) (Scuderia Rencati Srl) L Cumani 3-9-5	M Dwyer	88
605	(10)	053-01	INVERMARK 18 (F) (Sir David Wills) J Fanshawe 3-9-4	Pat Eddery	93
606	(9)	140	HAJR 11 (G) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 3-9-3	W Ryan	97
607	(6)	2-3451	GO FOR SALT 23 (D,S) (S Hanson) M Stoute 3-9-1	B Doyle	[illegible]
608	(8)	34-0353	RED GUARD 21 (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 3-9-1	R Cochrane	90
609	(5)	1020304	MARADI 33 (Mrs D Kilgour) M Bell 3-8-10	M Fenton	93
610	(2)	36-0011	AMERICAN WHISPER 47 (D,F,G) (Confederates) P Harris 3-8-10	C Lowther (5)	98

BETTING: 5-1 Invermark, 11-2 Go For Salt, 6-1 Farmost, 7-1 American Whisper, Scoss, Red Guard, 8-1 others.

1996: ANGUS-G 4-8-8 K Darley (9-2 fav) Mrs M Reveley 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

FARMOST beat Space Race short-head at Bath (1m 2f, firm). ORSAY beat Game Ploy neck in handicap at Sandown (1m 2f, good to firm). SCOSS neck 2nd to Lomberto at Salisbury (1m 2f, firm). INVERMARK beat Awesome Wells head in maiden at Yarmouth (1m 3½f, firm). GO FOR SALT beat Billy Nomaite 9l in maiden at Leicester (1m 2f, good). AMERICAN WHISPER beat Missile Toe 3½l in handicap at Yarmouth (1m 2f, good).
Selection: GO FOR SALT

5.10 AIR N Z MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,623: 6f) (9 runners)

1	(2)	5-35	FAYIK 52 (A Newcombe) A Newcombe 9-0	G Hind	84
2	(3)	0	HAWKSBILL HENRY 8 (G Harwood) Mrs A Perrett 9-0	Gaye Harwood	–
3	(11)	025	MIDYAN CALL 97 (L Gaucci) M Bell 9-0	M Fenton	[illegible]
4	(9)	4245003	NIGHT EXPRESS 7 (BF) (R McAulay) B Hanbury 9-0	J Stack	74
5	(8)		TREATY (H Al-Mutawa) K Mahdi 9-0	S Sanders	–
6	(6)		AMELIA JANE (Pwls Gym) L Montague Hall 8-9	D O'Donohoe (3)	–
7	(7)	55-06	HANAN 36 (B) (Mahmood Al-Shuaibi) P Kelleway 8-9	R Ffrench (3)	92
8	(5)	30-6422	LISTED ACCOUNT 22 (R Smith) L Cumani 8-9	Pat Eddery	94
9	(4)	4	MARY CORNWALLIS 22 (Mrs C Lilley) G Wragg 8-9	M Hills	91

BETTING: 9-4 Listed Account, 5-2 Mary Cornwallis, 7-2 Midyan Call, 13-2 Night Express, 10-1 others

1996: DISPUTED 9-0 P Robinson (9-2) M Jarvis 14 ran

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

2.15 Italian Rose
2.45 Over To You
3.15 *Germano*
3.50 Moon Strike
4.20 Dodo
4.50 Regait

The Times *Private* Handicapper's top rating:
3.50 **FAIRY PRINCE**.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. *The Times Private Handicapper's rating.*

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,014: 5f) (7 runners)

1	(7)	00	DANCING ICON 21 (J Smith) R Hannon 8-7	Dane O'Neill	75
2	(3)	233	D'MARTI 14 (Mrs M Rogers) C Booth 8-6	J Carroll	[illegible]
3	(6)	0	COOL MYSTERY 36 (G Dailey Racing Partnership) A Mulholland 8-4	M Roberts	–
4	(1)	502	RELATE 6 (Boyts Livestock Ltd) M Meade 8-4	R Havlin (3)	94
5	(4)	5	RARE INDIGO 33 (Mrs B Ansell) J Berry 8-1	P Bradley (7)	92
6	(5)	30	ITALIAN ROSE 33 (BF) (Serafino Agodino) W Musson 7-13	A Mackay	95
7	(2)	00	PREMIUM PRINCESS 25 (Premium Bloodstock Plc) J J Quinn 7-13	P Fessey (3)	–

BETTING: 9-4 D'Marti, 3-1 Relate, 5-1 Rare Indigo, 11-2 Italian Rose, 8-1 Premium Princess, 10-1 Dancing Icon, 12-1 Cool Mystery

1996: SNAP CRACKLE POP 8-3 Paul Eddery (100-30) R Johnson Houghton 9 ran

2.45 HARVEY JONES RATED HANDICAP
BBC1

(£5,158: 1m 30yd) (11 runners)

1	(8)	0320260	KALA SUNRISE 14 (D,F,G) (A Needham) C Smith 4-9-3	J Tate	98
2	(9)	0001064	BAND ON THE RUN 29 (CD,F,G,S) (D Allen) B McMahon 10-9-0	M Roberts	91
3	(7)	3004050	IRISH ACCORD 9 (F) (P Leonard) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-11	M J Kinane	95
4	(11)	-006600	MOVING ARROW 7 (CD,F,G,S) (G Westgarth) Miss S Hall 6-8-11	Dane O'Neill	[illegible]
5	(4)	2002620	TERTIUM 9 (D,F) (J Barton) M Wane 5-8-11	A Whelan (3)	94
6	(2)	0031061	Q FACTOR 8 (C,D,F,S) (H Collis) D Haydn Jones 5-8-11	S Drowne	95
7	(10)	3162315	SHARP SHUFFLE 9 (D,F,G) (Mrs H Prendergast) R Hannon 4-8-9	R Hughes	97
8	(3)	3142	ZOOM UP 30 (D,G) (K Maeda) M Heaton-Ellis 3-8-6	J Carroll	95
9	(5)	1-04300	OVER TO YOU 31 (D,G) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 3-8-4	R Hills	92
10	(1)	0022013	QUEENS CONSUL 3 (D,F,G) (Miss H Dawson) B Rothwell 7-8-3	D Harrison	96
11	(6)	-100655	SHARE DELIGHT 21 (F) (A Morton) B Hills 3-7-13	P Fessey (3)	95

BETTING: 9-2 Irish Accord, 11-2 Tertium, Zoom Up, 6-1 Sharp Shuffle, 7-1 Over To You, Q Factor, 8-1 Band On The Run, 12-1 Kala Sunrise, Moving Arrow, Queen's Consul, 20-1 Share Delight.

1996: ELMI ELMAK 3-8-6 O Urbina (11-4) L Cumani 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

IRISH ACCORD 2¼l 5th of 16 to Stackattack in handicap at York (7f, good to firm) with TERTIUM (2lb worse off) 2¼l 6th. Q FACTOR beat Kasmayo 1½l in 7-runner handicap at Salisbury (7f, good to firm). SHARP SHUFFLE beat Sue's Return 1l in 9-runner handicap at Goodwood (1m, good to firm). ZOOM UP 1½l 2nd of 15 to Saleel in handicap at Newmarket (1m, good to firm). OVER TO YOU 1¾l 3rd of 19 to Out Of Sight in handicap at York (1m, good) with SHARE DELIGHT (3lb better off) ½l 6th and IRISH ACCORD (3lb better off) 2½l 19th. QUEENS CONSUL beat Ducaid head in 12-runner handicap at Beverley (1m 100yd, good).
Selection: SHARP SHUFFLE

3.15 PETROS ROSE OF LANCASTER STAKES
BBC1

(Group III: £20,920: 1m 2f 120yd) (7 runners)

1	(4)	166-216	TAMAYAZ 76 (V,CD,F) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 5-9-7	L Dettori	92
2	(6)	40-2112	GERMANO 21 (F,S) (Baron G von Ullmann) G Wragg 4-9-3	M Hills	94
3	(2)	20-3640	KEY TO MY HEART 28 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Pickering) Miss S Hall 7-9-3	R Hughes	90
4	(7)	-051005	PRINCE OF MY HEART 11 (G,S) (G Hicks) B Hills 4-9-3	M Roberts	91
5	(5)	12-162	FAHRIS 19 (BF,F) (H al-Maktoum) B Hanbury 3-8-7	R Hills	85
6	(3)	11333	ROMANOV 25 (C,G,S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-7	D Harrison	[illegible]
7	(1)	250-312	SANDSTONE 34 (F) (F Winfield) J Dunlop 3-8-7	M J Kinane	91

BETTING: 5-2 Romanov, 3-1 Tamayaz, 9-2 Germano, 6-1 Fahris, 13-2 Sandstone, 10-1 Key To My Heart, 14-1 Prince Of My Heart.

1996: TAMAYAZ 4-9-3 G Carter (11-2) S bin Suroor 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

TAMAYAZ beat Needle Gun 1l in 13-runner conditions race at Nad Al Sheba (1m 2f, dirt). GERMANO beat King Alex head in 10-runner listed race at Goodwood (1m, good).
PRINCE OF MY HEART about 11¼l 5th of 18 to Danish Rhapsody in handicap at Goodwood (1m 2f, good to firm). FAHRIS beat Panama City 3l in 7-runner listed race at Newmarket (1m 1f, good to firm). ROMANOV about 5l 3rd of 13 to Benny The Dip in the group 1 Derby Stakes at Epsom (1m 4f, good) with FAHRIS 7¼l 6th. SANDSTONE beat Rotherfield head in 6-runner listed race at Newmarket (1m 2f, good).
Selection: ROMANOV

3.50 CORAL HANDICAP
BBC1

(£15,045: 5f) (19 runners)

1	(15)	-536200	CROWDED AVENUE 11 (D,F,G) (T Wallard) P Makin 5-10-0	Paul Eddery	89
2	(9)	001-005	MIDNIGHT ESCAPE 15 (D,F,G) (M Ayers) C Wall 4-9-11	R Hills	89
3	(6)	2500130	TADEO 7 (CD,F,G,S) (J Good) M Johnston 4-9-10	M Roberts	91
4	(12)	1012111	BLESSINGINDISGUISE 15 (B,CD,F,G) (A Black) M W Easterby 4-9-6	M J Kinane	87
5	(13)	165-213	MOON STRIKE 15 (D,F,G,S) (A Foustok) P Howling 7-9-5	L Dettori	90
6	(19)	42-216	MILE HIGH 97 (D,F) (Maygain Ltd) M Channon 3-9-4	R Hughes	85
7	(2)	0-42520	CROFTERS CEILIDH 15 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Maddever) B McMahon 5-9-3	S Righton (7)	94
8	(11)	153-550	YOUNG BIGWIG 70 (D,F) (J Laughton & W Milner) J Berry 3-9-3	P Roberts (5)	85
9	(10)	-440226	THAT MAN AGAIN 29 (CD,F,G) (J & R Dolly) S C Williams 5-9-0	A Whelan (3)	90
10	(3)	2000001	LAGO DI VARANO 14 (B,D,F,G,S) (PST Group) R Whitaker 5-9-0	D McKeown	89
11	(4)	400-004	RUSHCUTTER BAY 15 (V,D,G) (Treasure Seekers) P Gilligan 4-8-13	G Faulkner (5)	89
12	(5)	1112500	SQUIRE CORRIE 7 (D,F,G,S) (Miss N Thesiger) D Chapman 5-8-12	P Fessey (3)	91
13	(1)	3310525	DAAWE 14 (BF,D,F,G) (Mrs A Mallinson) Mrs V Aconley 6-8-9	F Lynch	93
14	(18)	-002600	LORD HIGH ADMIRAL 24 (CD,F,G,S) (Elite RC) M Heaton-Ellis 9-8-5	S Drowne	96
15	(7)	F-10202	KNOTTY HILL 105 (R Craggs) R Craggs 5-8-4	D Harrison	88
16	(8)	0224111	FAIRY PRINCE 9 (D,F,G) (A Murphy) Mrs A King 4-8-4	Dane O'Neill	[illegible]
17	(14)	0155512	ROYAL DOME 9 (BF,CD,F,G) (G Jones) M Wane 5-8-3	J Carroll	96
18	(16)	0414406	CAUDA EQUINA 8 (D,F,G,S) (M Foy) M Channon 3-8-3	P P Murphy (3)	91
19	(17)	0660600	SWYNFORD DREAM 21 (D,F,G) (Qualitair Ltd) J Bottomley 4-8-1	A Mackay	94

BETTING: 5-1 Moon Strike, 11-2 Blessingindisguise, 8-1 Royal Dome, 12-1 Crowded Avenue, Fairy Prince, Rushcutter Bay, 14-1 Crofters Ceilidh, Lago Di Varano, Midnight Escape, Midnight Escape, Tadeo, 16-1 others

1996: ROYAL DOME 4-8-0 G Carter (25-1) M Wane 21 ran

FORM FOCUS

TADEO beat DAAWE (4lb better off) ¾l in 11-runner handicap at Newmarket (5f, good) with SWYNFORD DREAM (6lb better off) 4¾l 8th and LAGO DI VARANO 1l 9th. BLESSINGINDISGUISE beat Surprise Mission 1½l in 13-runner handicap at Ascot (5f, good) with MOON STRIKE (5lb better off) head 3rd. RUSHCUTTER BAY (7lb better off) ½l 4th and CROFTERS CEILIDH (7lb better off) 4½l 8th. THAT MAN AGAIN 2¾l 2nd of 13 to My Best Valentine in handicap at Sandown (5f, good to soft). LAGO DI VARANO beat Lady Sheriff 1l in 8-runner handicap at Newcastle (5f, good) with TADEO (7lb better off) head 3rd and DAAWE (8lb better off) ½l 5th. KNOTTY HILL 1¾l 2nd of 17 to Oggi in handicap at Leicester (6f, good to soft). FAIRY PRINCE beat ROYAL DOME (1lb better off) ½l in limited stakes at Doncaster (6f, good).
Selection: MOON STRIKE

4.20 EBF EUROLEASE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,920: 6f) (13 runners)

1	(11)		ANGELINA (A Foustok) P Howling 8-11	R Hughes	–
2	(4)		BOLSHAYA (Mrs C Dollery) J Berry 8-11	P Fessey (3)	–
3	(5)	0	CAROLINE'S PET 35 (G White) A Bailey 8-11	A Mackay	–
4	(8)		CEASE FIRE (T Hillman) Mrs J Cecil 8-11	J Carroll	–
5	(10)	56	CHOCOLATE 41 (BF) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) J Dunlop 8-11	M J Kinane	82
6	(8)	5422	DODO 8 (BF) (Commander G Marten) D Elsworth 8-11	Paul Eddery	[illegible]
7	(6)		EQUITY PRINCESS (M al-Maktoum) M Johnston 8-11	M Roberts	–
8	(3)	50	MASSICE 22 (J Forsyth) R Hollinshead 8-11	F Lynch	–
9	(1)		POETRY IN MOTION (P Ebdon Racing) E Alston 8-11	S Drowne	–
10	(12)		RAPTURE (Lord Carnarvon) R Hannon 8-11	Dane O'Neill	–
11	(13)		SET TRAIL (J Hanson) J Hanson 8-11	E Johnson	–
12	(7)	4	TEEPEE 38 (Highclere Thoroughbred Racing Ltd) W Jarvis 8-11	R Hills	87
13	(2)	32	ZELANDA 19 (BF) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-11	L Dettori	98

BETTING: 2-1 Zelanda, 9-2 Dodo, 7-1 Chocolate, Teepee, 8-1 Equity Princess, Rapture, 10-1 Cease Fire, 14-1 others.

1996: WELL WARNED 8-11 Pat Eddery (8-13 fav) B Hills 5 ran

4.50 NORTH LANCASHIRE HANDICAP
(£3,693: 1m 6f) (9 runners)

1	(9)	0-45100	FAR AHEAD 29 (F,S) (John J Elliot) J Eyre 5-10-0	R Lappin	94
2	(2)	51	ULTIMATE SMOOTHIE 28 (D,F) (Ince Bloodstock) M Pipe 5-9-10	R Hughes	80
3	(7)	00-10	REGAIT 31 (G) (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) M Jarvis 3-9-4	M Roberts	93
4	(1)	3025201	NOUFARI 26 (G) (E Wadman) R Hollinshead 6-9-3	F Lynch	95
5	(8)	0-020	CRYSTAL HILLS 18 (B) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 3-9-1	L Dettori	84
6	(3)	3-2215	MELODICA 16 (D,F) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 3-8-12	M J Kinane	96
7	(8)	48-841	VALAGALORE 17 (D,G) (Mrs A Bourne) B Hills 3-8-11	P Fessey (3)	87
8	(5)	0/106-6	CHIEF MOUSE 8J (B Grant) F Jordan 4-8-7	J Carroll	[illegible]
9	(4)	0-32364	ORDAINED 15 (F) (P Ebdon Racing) E Alston 4-8-3	S Drowne	94

BETTING: 3-1 Valagalore, 4-1 Melodica, 6-1 Crystal Hills, 7-1 Ultimate Smoothie, Noufari, 8-1 Regait, Ordained, 12-1 others.

1996: FANCY HEIGHTS 3-9-0 J Reid (7-2) Lady Herries 7 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Chapple-Hyam	11	40	27.5	M Hills	12	57	21.1
W Jarvis	7	28	25.0	M Roberts	13	64	20.3
E Dunlop	3	12	25.0	Dane O'Neill	3	17	17.6
J Dunlop	24	107	22.4	D Harrison	8	46	17.4
B Hills	17	79	21.5	Paul Eddery	10	60	16.7
P Makin	5	24	20.8	L Dettori	20	121	16.5

TOMORROW'S MEETINGS: Epsom (Tote Jackpot meeting, 2.00 - 4.40), Redcar (2.10 - 4.50), Yarmouth (2.20 - 5.00).

REDCAR

THUNDERER
2.10 Alharir. 2.40 Erro Codigo. 3.10 Epic Stand. 3.40 Durgams First. 4.15 Billy Nomaite. 4.45 Rennyholme.

GOING. GOOD TO FIRM — SIS
DRAW. 5F-6F. HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.10 EBF SINNINGTON MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,672. 7f) (9 runners)

1	3	ALHARIR 22 J Dunlop 8-11	K Darley 2
2		ARCTIC AIR E Weymes 8-11	O Pears 1
3	006	DOUGS DREAM 24 Mrs P Sandbank 8-11	W J O'Connor 6
4	0	LADYOFDISTINCTION 14 J Wainwright 8-11	T Williams 4
5	53	REWARDIA 6 P Evans 8-11	J F Egan 5
6		SCENT OF SUCCESS M Seade 8-11	N Day 7
7	0	TAYLOR'S PRIDE 60 T Barron 8-11	L Charnock 9
8	0	THUNDERING PAPOOSE 67 A James 8-11	J Fowle (7) 8
9		TIGI Mrs M Reveley 8-11	A Culhane 3

7-4 Alharir, 5-2 Scent of Success, 5-1 Rewardia, 12-1 Dougs Dream, 14-1 others.

2.40 BEDALE SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O £2,574: 6f) (11)

1	13	CHINAIDER 30 J J G Neill 8-11	K Darley 10
2	060	CIRCUITEER 43 J Berry 8-11	J Fanning 2
3	2043	ERRO CODIGO 17 Mrs J Ramsden 8-11	O Pears 11
4	0040	FIA TEF 8 (B) T Easterby 8-11	L Charnock 1
5		ROBERT THE BRUCE R Fahey 8-11	R Winston (7) 5
6	4660	SEVENTH HEAVEN 8 D Nicholls 8-11	G Parkin (3) 6
7	3003	SNAPPY TIMES 14 M Dods 8-11	J F Egan 9
8	5046	DAWN PATROL 6 K Hogg 8-6	A Garth 7
9	0	JOLI FILLE 14 J Wainwright 8-6	T Williams 4
10	05	LADY ROCHELLE 12 T Easterby 8-6	W J O'Connor 8
11		MOONLIGHT FLIT J FitzGerald 8-6	A Culhane 3

7-4 Erro Codigo, 5-1 Chinaider, 7-1 Snappy Times, Lady Rochelle, 10-1 others

3.10 ROTHMANS HANDICAP (£4,499: 1m) (10)

1	0000	SAIFAN 14 (V,D,F,G) D Morris 8-10-0	N Day 4
2	0113	SOOTY TERN 17 (D,F,G,S) J Bradley 10-9-7	R Winston (7) 7
3	1240	BEST OF ALL 9 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Berry 5-9-5	L Charnock 1
4	0544	GYMCRAK PREMIERE 21 (D,F,G) G Holmes 9-9-2	W O'Connor 2
5	1056	GULLIVER 6 (D,F) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-1	O Pears 8
6	2311	EPIC STAND 21 (CD,F,G) Mrs J Ramsden 3-9-0	A Culhane 5
7	4502	MOUNTGATE 7 (B,D,F,G) M Bielby 5-8-11	T Williams 3
8	4100	DISPOL GEM 14 (C,D,F,G) P Calver 4-8-11	K Darley 9
9	2300	THWAAB 8 (C,F,G) F Watson 5-8-3	J F Egan 6
10	0005	WINSTON 36 (D,G) J Bethell 4-7-12	R Mullen (5) 10

3-1 Epic Stand, 5-1 Sooty Tern, 6-1 Mountgate, 7-1 Gymcrak Premiere, Thwaab, 8-1 Best Of All, 15-1 Saifan, Gulliver, Dispol Gem, 25-1 Winston

3.40 MARY REVELEY RACING CLUB CLAIMING STAKES (£2,511: 1m 6f 19yd) (6)

1	4622	DURGAMS FIRST 10 (BF,D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-8	A Culhane 4
2	04	MADDIE 12 W Haigh 5-9-7	N Day 1
3	2324	CHARITY CRUSADER 22 (B,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-6	S Copp (5) 6
4	2/00	FOX SPARROW 24 (B,S) N Tinkler 7-9-4	K Darley 3
5	0050	FINESTATETOBEIN 19 F Watson 4-9-1	J F Egan 2
6	000-	CHANCANCOOK 225 J Eyre 4-8-13	O Pears 5

11-10 Charity Crusader, 6-4 Durgams First, 10-1 Chancancook, 12-1 Fox Sparrow, 16-1 Maddie, 33-1 Finestatetobein.

4.15 VAUX CIU RED CROSS MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£3,652. 1m 2f) (7)

1	322	BILLY NOMAITE 23 Mrs S Smith 3-9-11	O Pears 6
2	0050	FOREST ROBIN 12 (BF) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-3	Claire West (7) 5
3	4-64	LORD DISCORD 14 (V) T Easterby 3-8-13	L Charnock 4
4	-624	CEANOTHUS 16 W Haggas 3-8-13	Jo Hunnam (7) 3
5	3365	BEAU ROBERTO 7 J Golde 3-8-4	T Williams 1
6	0500	DULAS BAY 81 M W Easterby 3-8-2	J Fanning 7
7	4356	SING AND DANCE 19 E Weymes 4-8-2	R Winston (7) 2

3-1 Ceanothus, 4-1 Billy Nomaite, Lord Discord, 9-2 Forest Robin, 6-1 Beau Roberto, 7-1 Sing And Dance, 16-1 Dulas Bay

4.45 GO RACING IN YORKSHIRE HANDICAP
(£3,268: 6f) (24)

1	0421	GRAND CHAPEAU 8 (D,F,G) D Nicholls 5-10-1	Alex Greaves 17
2	0000	FOIST 15 (D,G,S) M W Easterby 5-9-11	G Parkin (3) 3
3	0000	HALMANERROR 28 (C,D,F,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 7-9-10	A Culhane 21
4	0300	WAGGA MOON 5 J J O'Neill 3-9-7	O Pears 1
5	2204	BOLLIN DOROTHY 9 (S) T Easterby 4-9-6	T Williams 23
6	-366	MERRILY 7 Miss S Hall 4-9-3	N Day 5
7	2325	CAMBORNEUR 2 (B,D,F) T Easterby 4-9-2	L Charnock 18
8	4000	NAPOLEON STAR 9 (D,F) S Bowring 6-9-1	C Teague (3) 10
9	5000	SIHAFI 5 (D) J Carr 4-9-0	A Garth 19
10	0600	PETRACO 7 (D,F,G,S) N Smith 9-9-0	Amanda Sanders (5) 7
11	6020	RENNYHOLME 17 A Mulholland 6-9-0	W J O'Connor 20
12	4202	FISIOSTAR 8 (V) M Dods 4-9-0	J F Egan 15
13	0264	STEPHENSONS ROCKET 7 (F,G,S) R Fahey 6-8-12	R Winston (7) 6
14	6660	REINHARDT 7 (BF,F) D Nicholls 4-8-11	K Darley 16
15	3451	RIVER ENSIGN 7 (D,G) W M Brisbourne 4-8-9	A McCarthy (7) 24
16	0002	L A TOUCH 7 (D,F) J J Quinn 4-8-8	Sophie Mitchell 14
17	2450	KID ORY 26 (B,C,D,G,S) D Chapman 6-8-7	K Sked (5) 2
18	5100	PALDOST 7 (B,D,F) M Hammond 3-8-5	DOUBTFUL 8
19	-050	FORECAST 45 (D,F) K Morgan 4-8-5	Jo Hunnam (7) 13
20	60-0	MYSTIQUE SMILE 33 (F) J Golde 4-8-3	J Fanning 12
21	-000	MISS ARAGON 9 (D,G) Miss L Siddall 9-7-13	T Siddall (7) 9
22	000	IMPERIAL LINE 15 (B) A Mulholland 3-7-12	A Nicholls (7) 11
23	0040	MADAM ZANDO 7 J Balding 4-7-10	J Fowle (7) 22
24	0050	MU-ARRIK 7 (V,CD,G) G Oldroyd 9-7-10	R Mullen (5) 4

9-2 Grand Chapeau, 6-1 Halmanerror, Bollin Dorothy, Camborneur, River Ensign, L A Touch, 10-1 Foist, 14-1 others.

Royal Mark to defy penalty

NEWMARKET

CHANNEL 4

3.05: This can go to **Sandicliffe**, unlucky in running when poised to show improved form for her new trainer at Windsor last time. That man, James Toller, is enjoying a fine run and his filly handles fast ground well. The same is true of last year's winner Mezzoramio, who has regularly shown good form on straight tracks.

3.35: Eloquent almost got away with a similar race when given a bold ride at Sandown last time, caught on the line by Woodland Melody. She sets the standard, although one or two of her stablemates — after enjoying a fine run — have disappointed recently. Parisian Lady, a bargain buy, put up a devastating display at Salisbury, recording a good time in the process, while Jay Gee is another doing well for a small yard.

However, there is a possibility that **Silent Tribute** will be allowed to go off at a bigger price than her form merits. Far from being flattered by her head defeat by Baltic State over course and distance, she will be better suited by the likely stiffer test this time. In a small field, she found herself in front — and set too leisurely a gallop before rallying close home.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

4.10: **Royal Mark** was not given a hard time, after meeting trouble in running, in a handicap at York last month, and proved that he had slipped down to a winning mark at Newcastle on Wednesday. He was always going best and can shrug off his 5lb penalty here. Cosmic Prince races too keenly to last a mile and is better off back at this distance, while Madly Sharp goes well on fast ground and after a break. But Neuwest, Highborn and Zugudi need to be forgiven bad runs last time.

4.40: It took a step up to this trip to allow **Orsay** back into the winner's enclosure at Sandown in June. Easy ground blunted him when a close fourth on his return there, as did the crawl of the Magnet Cup. Today's faster going and faster gallop — Farmost set a fierce pace when returning to form at Bath last time — can enhance his trainer's fine season.

Maradi has had similar excuses of late, while Hajr has had the draw and mud against him since making a successful debut at Newbury. His stable has been having a quiet run, however, whereas American Whisper is flourishing and must go well.

HAYDOCK PARK

BBC1

2.45, 3.15, 3.50: see above.

Chris McGrath

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: American Whisper
(4.40 Newmarket)

Next best: Parisian Lady
(3.35 Newmarket)

SPECIALISTS

REDCAR: Trainers: J Dunlop, 12 winners from 46 runners, 26.1%. M Stoute, 6 from 28, 21.4%. P Calver, 7 from 55, 12.7%; Mrs M Reveley, 43 from 339, 12.7%. T Barron, 10 from 85, 11.8%. Jockeys: K Darley, 53 winners from 265 rides, 20.0%. O Pears, 3 from 19, 15.8%. S Copp, 4 from 38, 10.5%. Only qualifiers.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ayr: 2.25 Anan Spirit. 4.00 Round Robin. Haydock Park: 3.15 Tamayaz. 4.50 Crystal Hills. Lingfield Park: 5.50 Riscatto, Sheilas Dream. 7.20 Chikapenny. 8.20 Khalaaq. Newmarket: 2.00 Marsul. 2.30 Varnishing Day. 3.05 Alisura, Mutahadeth. 5.10 Hanan. Redcar: 3.10 Mountgate. 4.15 Lord Discord. 4.45 Fisiostar, Imperial Line. Worcester: 8.05 Crocknamohill, Distant Storm. 8.35 Powerful Spirit.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Windsor (first race, 2.00). Worcester (2.15). Leicester (Sky, 5.50). Thirsk (Sky, 6.05).

TUESDAY: Bath (2.00). Southwell (2.15)

WEDNESDAY: Beverley (2.00). Salisbury (2.15). Hamilton Park (Sky, 6.00). Sandown Park (Sky, 5.45)

THURSDAY: Beverley (2.00). Sandown Park (2.15)

FRIDAY: Brighton (2.00). Newbury (BBC, 2.10). Southwell (AW, 2.20). Catterick (5.55). Haydock Park (5.40)

SATURDAY: Newbury (BBC, 2.00). Ripon (2.15). Bangor (2.10). Stratford (2.20). Brighton (Sky, 5.40). Wolverhampton (AW, Sky, 7.00). Newton Abbot (5.50)

SUNDAY: Pontefract (2.15). Lingfield Park (2.25). Newton Abbot (2.35).

Flat meetings in bold

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NEWMARKET	101	201
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10/1 Royal Dome
11/1 Rushcutter Bay
12/1 Crowded Avenue
14/1 Lago Di Varano
14/1 Lord High Admiral
14/1 Tadeo
14/1 That Man Again
16/1 Crofters Ceilidh
16/1 Daawe
16/1 Swynford Dream
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RACING: DEFECTION OF KING OF KINGS LEAVES WAY CLEAR FOR GODOLPHIN FILLY

Asfurah to claim group one prize

By our Irish Racing Correspondent

THE defection of King Of Kings, the one-time 2,000 Guineas favourite, from tomorrow's Heinz 57 Phoenix Stakes at Leopardstown gives Godolphin's Asfurah a clear chance to land Europe's first group one juvenile event of the season.

The withdrawal of King Of Kings has robbed the race of much of its interest, but Aidan O'Brien still has four of the nine runners in the six-furlong contest. O'Brien said yesterday: "The easy decision would have been to run but, in King Of Kings' best interests, we have decided not to. We will think about the Futurity Stakes at the Curragh instead and worry about a group one later."

Stable jockey Christy Roche will now ride the Coventry Stakes winner, Harbour Master, and O'Brien said: "The blinkers worked well on Harbour Master at Ascot and he has been working well since."

O'Brien: four-handed

O'Brien will no doubt be encouraged by how well another of his hopefuls, *Danyross, ran to finish fourth* behind Asfurah in Newmarket's Cherry Hinton Stakes, but Asfurah showed enough in winning that competitive event by a length from Crazee Mental to suggest that she is capable of re-establishing Britain's hold on the Heinz.

British-trained runners have won this seven times since 1987 and Asfurah's rider, Frankie Dettori, learned the winning formula by collecting on Pips Pride in 1992. The indications are that Asfurah could be better than that Richard Hannon-trained colt.

Her Cherry Hinton victory proved **Asfurah** had progressed from winning the Windsor Castle Stakes at Ascot but what impressed most was her willingness to dig deep when challenged in the closing stages. That blend of precocity and courage will be a hard combination for tomorrow's opposition, which also includes Princely Heir and *Pool Music from Britain.*

A winner at Ripon and Beverley, the Mark Johnston-trained Princely Heir should improve significantly from running third to the subsequent Molecomb Stakes winner, Lady Alexander, and King Of Kings in the Curragh's Anglesey Stakes last month.

However, it is hard to see him winning tomorrow and a bigger danger to Asfurah could be another O'Brien-trained horse, Flame Violet.

Flame Violet was only a short-head winner of a listed race over the course and distance last month, but her trainer is nevertheless convinced that the filly is substantially better than her bare form might suggest.

There could be another group success for the British raiders in the group three Phoenix Sprint, where David Loder's **Abou Zouz** may have too much pace for his five-strong opposition.

LEOPARDSTOWN TOMORROW

3.20 HEINZ 57 PHOENIX STAKES

BBC2

(Group I: 2-Y-O £86,000 6f) (9 runners)

1 (7) 101 HARBOUR MASTER 54 (B,D,F,G) (Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brien 9-0 C Roche
2 (5) 1153 POOL MUSIC 32 (F) (Mrs Catherine Parker) R Hannon (GB) 9-0 R Hughes
3 (6) 113 PRINCELY HEIR 29 (F,S) (M al-Maktoum) M Johnston (GB) 9-0 J Weaver
4 (2) 211 ASFURAH 33 (D,G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 8-11 L Dettori
5 (1) 31 ATTRACTIVE CROWN 60 (CD,S) (A Brosnan) K Prendergast 8-11 S Craine
6 (4) 31424 DANYROSS 33 (B,S) (Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brien 8-11 —
7 (3) 161 FLAME VIOLET 22 (CD,G,S) (M Tabor) A P O'Brien 8-11 —
8 (9) 1221 HOPPING HIGGINS 6 (C,S) (Sporting Quest Racing Club) A P O'Brien 8-11 —
9 (8) 31 TARASCON 15 (G) (Mrs J Rowlerson) T Stack 8-11 P J Smullen

BETTING: 3-1 Harbour Master, Asfurah, 11-2 Hopping Higgins, 7-1 Attractive Crown, Flame Violet, 8-1 Pool Music, Danyross, 10-1 others.

1995. MANTOVANI 9-0 C Everard (20-1) J Bolger 9 ran

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

5.50 Arzani. 6.20 Chieftain. 6.50 Soojama. 7.20 Phone Alex. 7.50 Bayin. 8.20 Ivory Dawn.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (TURF COURSE); STANDARD (AW)
DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

5.50 LADY EVA SELLING HANDICAP

(All-weather: £1,985: 1m 2f) (14 runners)

1 0000 FENGARI 17 (CD,S) M Madgwick 8-10-0 P Doe (7) 3
2 4120 ARZANI 19 (CD,G) D Cosgrove 6-9-6 M Rimmer 2
3 2060 EASTLEIGH 36 (C,S) R Hollinshead 8-9-4 D Hayden (7) 6
4 1000 BISCATTO 26 (B,D,F) W Muir 3-9-2 A Polli (5) 12
5 4400 ZAHRAN 5 (C,F) J Bradley 6-8-11 D Sweeney (3) 5
6 6056 SHEILAS DREAM 19 (B) G L Moore 4-8-11 S Whitworth 13
7 0054 HARLEQUIN WALK 7 (C,D,G) R O'Sullivan 6-8-11 J Quinn 11
8 5000 LADYBOWER 22 J Poulton 5-8-5 A Daly (5) 14
9 0458 BAPSFORD 14 G L Moore 3-8-4 A Clark 4
10 5000 CAPTAIN MARMALADE 8 (CD,G) D Thom 8-8-3 F Norton 9
11 0004 RON'S ROUND 15 C Dwyer 3-7-13 N Varley 1
12 0054 PADDY HURRY 14 (B) N Callaghan 3-7-11 G Bardwell 10
13 -640 LOXLEY'S GIRL 40 H Akbary 3-7-10 N Adams 7
14 0050 BOLD ET NOIR 21 W Jarvis 3-7-10 Martin Dwyer (3) 8

7-2 Bapsford, 6-1 Harlequin Walk, Captain Marmalade, 8-1 Arzani, Sheilas Dream, Paddy Hurry, 12-1 Biscatto, Ron's Round, 14-1 others.

6.20 LOMBARD GOLDEN SPRINT STAKES

SKY

(2-Y-O: £4,447: 5f) (5)

1 3411 HUNTSWOOD 4 (D,F) R Hannon 9-4 Martin Dwyer (3) 1
2 43 CHIEFTAIN 8 N Callaghan 8-10 Pat Eddery 5
3 00 SECOND SUN 19 J Bridger 8-10 J Quinn 2
4 6436 *DAYS OF GRACE 7 (D,F) M Meade 8-7* R Brisland (7) 4
5 2403 SALAMANCA 9 (D,S) J Berry 8-5 G Lowther (5) 3

4-6 Chieftain, 7-2 Huntswood, 5-1 Salamanca, 16-1 Days Of Grace, 33-1 Second Sun.

6.50 GUARDWORTH HANDICAP

SKY

(All-weather: £3,018: 2m) (9)

1 3221 MISTER ASPECTO 7 (V,CD,F) M Johnston 4-9-13 B Doyle 9
2 0601 PARADISE NAVY 9 (B,CD,F,G) C Egerton 8-9-9 C Lowther (5) 3
3 3108 SOOJAMA 33 (B,CD,F,G) R Flower 7-8-10 Martin Dwyer (3) 5
4 -065 WILLIE RUSHTON 7 (G) G L Moore 4-8-8 A Clark 8
5 0613 DASHING INVADER 19 (B) P Harris 4-8-8 F Norton 4
6 -0346 NORMAX LAD 6 (B,C,F,G) M Meade 9-8-0 R Brisland (7) 7
7 -0516 BEDOUIN PRINCE 21 (G) Mrs L Stubbs 10-8-0 J Quinn 1
8 5013 SIPOWITZ 2 (D,F) C Cyzer 3-7-10 G Bardwell 2
9 0645 JILLY WOO 12 B Pearce 3-7-10 D Williams (7) 6

5-2 Paradise Navy, 3-1 Mister Aspecto, 6-1 Dashing Invader, 7-1 Sipowitz, 8-1 Soojama, Bedouin Prince, 12-1 Willie Rushton, Normax Lad, 33-1 Jilly Woo.

7.20 EBF LADY MARGARET NOVICE FILLIES STAKES

SKY

(2-Y-O: £2,624. 6f) (10)

1 156 BLUSHING VICTORIA 28 (F) M Meade 9-2 D Sweeney (3) 8
2 2106 PHONE ALEX 7 (C,G) R Hannon 9-0 Pat Eddery 5
3 0 AMBITIOUS 61 (BF) J Fanshawe 8-8 W Ryan 6
4 3364 CHIKAPENNY 5 (V) Mrs L Stubbs 8-8 S Sanders 9
5 3 FARNDON PRINCESS 28 R Hollinshead 8-8 Paul Eddery 4
6 0 GROSVENOR MISS 131 P Chapple-Hyam 8-8 R Havlin (3) 1
7 0 HAUNT THE ZOO 15 J L Harris 8-8 B Doyle 3
8 LITTLE TOLERANCE J Cullinan 8-8 J Quinn 10
9 0 PIRRUP 25 G Lewis 8-8 T Sprake 2
10 00 RUNAROUND 11 S Dow 8-8 Martin Dwyer (3) 7

5-2 Phone Alex, 9-2 Ambitious, 5-1 Blushing Victoria, 6-1 Farndon Princess, 7-1 Chikapenny, Grosvenor Miss, 12-1 Pirrup, 20-1 others.

7.50 MALAYA GATWICK HANDICAP

SKY

(£3,252: 6f) (12)

1 8354 DENBRAE 9 (D,F,G) D Murray Smith 5-9-10 C Lowther (5) 4
2 0504 MASTER OF PASSION 14 (CD,F,G,S) J Eustace 8-9-10 D Sweeney (3) 7
3 1244 DON PEPE 12 (BF,D,F,G,S) R Boss 6-9-9 Pat Eddery 1
4 1600 BAYIN 8 (D,F,G,S) M Usher 8-9-7 R Street 8
5 0140 THIRD PARTY 44 (D,F) S Dow 3-9-6 W Ryan 2
6 5540 WALK THE BEAT 47 (C,D,F,S) M Meade 7-9-5 F Norton 12
7 0036 DOUBLE MATT 9 (D,F) Mrs P Sly 5-9-3 D Biggs 10
8 -5241 GOLD EDGE 6 (D,F) M Channon 3-9-1 B Doyle 6
9 6020 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 6 (BF,D,F,G) R O'Sullivan 9-9-0 S Sanders 11
10 5306 SIZZLING 12 (D,F) R Hannon 5-8-12 Martin Dwyer (3) 5
11 4562 SERETSE'S NEPHEW 17 (D) M Polglase 3-7-11 J Quinn 9
12 0080 DANCING JACK 22 J Bridger 4-7-10 G Bardwell 3

3-1 Don Pepe, 7-2 Gold Edge, 6-1 Denbrae, 7-1 Master Of Passion, 10-1 Bayin, Sizzling, 12-1 Crystal Heights, Seretse's Nephew, 14-1 others.

8.20 COURIER NEWSPAPERS 125TH ANNIVERSARY LIMITED STAKES

SKY

(£3,773: 7f) (10)

1 0130 ALPINE HIDEAWAY 14 (BF,D,F) B Hanbury 4-9-5 M Rimmer 3
2 0000 KNOBBLEENEEZE 8 (V,C,D,F,G,S) M Channon 7-9-5 Candy Morris 9
3 1130 ROFFEY SPINNEY 103 R Hannon 3-9-1 D Biggs 8
4 -114 WATER GARDEN 49 (D) G Wragg 3-9-1 Pat Eddery 5
5 2-31 SILK ST JOHN 7 (G) M Ryan 3-8-13 G Carter 7
6 5322 KHAFAAQ 37 (B,BF) W Hern 3-8-11 T Sprake 10
7 0031 CARIBBEAN STAR 15 (V,D,G) M Stoute 3-8-10 W Ryan 4
8 2330 IVORY DAWN 8 (G) K Ivory 3-8-10 Martin Dwyer (3) 6
9 0-40 DAYLIGHT DREAMS 14 (G) C Cyzer 3-8-8 A Morris 2
10 0-00 SIMPLE LOGIC 84 (G) A Foster 3-8-8 S Whitworth 1

3-1 Khafaaq, 7-2 Silk St John, 4-1 Caribbean Star, 5-1 Water Garden, 7-1 Alpine Hideaway, 10-1 Roffey Spinney, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Wragg, 10 winners from 39 runners, 25.6%; M Stoute, 15 from 70, 21.4%; B Hanbury, 9 from 45, 20.0%; J Berry, 31 from 157, 19.7%; P Harris, 14 from 73, 19.2%.

JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery, 17 winners from 76 rides, 22.4%; R Havlin, 3 from 18, 16.7%; W Ryan, 31 from 190, 16.3%; B Doyle, 34 from 221, 15.4%; S Whitworth, 40 from 271, 14.8%.

AYR

THUNDERER

2.25 Arian Spirit. 3.00 Nautical Star. 3.30 Plan For Profit. 4.00 Kamanev. 4.30 Feel A Line. 5.00 Amron.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.25 MCELROY PRINTERS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP

(£2,670: 1m 7f) (10 runners)

1 0004 NOSEY NATIVE 8 (F,S) J Pearce 4-12-0 Mrs L Pearce 7
2 0332 STALLED 15 (BF,F,G) P Walwyn 7-11-2 Ms B Blandford (4) 1
3 5132 ARIAN SPIRIT 9 (V,BF,CD,F,S) J Eyre 6-10-10 Miss D Jones 6
4 /0/3 ABLE PLAYER 41J (F) K Drewry 10-10-9 K Drewry (4) 3
5 1164 BLACK ICE BOY 15 (B,F) R Bastiman 6-10-7 Miss R Bastiman (7) 5
6 5834 THISONESFORALICE 7 (F,S) J Goldie 9-10-4 Mrs C Williams (4) 4
7 60-6 THE ORRAMAN 40 J J O'Neill 3-10-1 J Barcoe (7) 8
8 063- YAAKUM 348J (F) S Kettlewell 8-9-10 Miss J Harrison (7) 9
9 0616 VINTAGE TAITTINGER 14J (S) J Goldie 5-9-9 Miss P Robson 2
10 6/5/ MILS MIJ 56J (S) T Cuthbert 12-9-7 Miss H Cuthbert (7) 10

5-2 Arian Spirit, 7-2 Stalled, Black Ice Boy, 6-1 Thisonesforalice, 8-1 Nosey Native, 10-1 Vintage Taittinger, 16-1 Able Player, 20-1 others.

3.00 BELLEISLE HOTEL MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £3,688: 7f) (4)

1 *BAYLHAM J Goldie 9-0* T E Durcan (3) 2
2 30 EMPIRE PARK 28 M Johnston 9-0 J Weaver 4
3 554 LINCOLNSHIRE 41 P Cole 9-0 D Holland 3
4 5 NAUTICAL STAR 35 J Hills 9-0 M Henry (3) 1

8-11 Nautical Star, 2-1 Lincolnshire, 6-1 Empire Park, 25-1 Baylham.

3.30 AYR FLOWER SHOW HANDICAP

(£5,378: 1m) (7)

1 2402 PERSIAN FAYRE 21 (CD,F,G) J Berry 5-10-0 T E Durcan (3) 6
2 0000 REBEL COUNTY 6 (C,D,F,G,S) A Bailey 4-9-7 Dane O'Neill 3
3 1120 CASHMERE LADY 29 (D,G) J Eyre 5-9-0 M Gallagher 7
4 3004 PLAN FOR PROFIT 8 (F,G) M Johnston 3-9-0 J Weaver 4
5 4104 DUNDEL 10 (C,G) B Hills 3-8-11 D Holland 1
6 0453 ANTARCTIC STORM 5 (D,F) R Fahey 4-7-11 M Henry (3) 2
7 0230 SUPERPRIDE 19 (C,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-7-10 D Wright 5

11-4 Dundel, 7-2 Persian Fayre, Plan For Profit, 9-2 Cashmere Lady, 11-2 Antarctic Storm, 14-1 Superpride, 20-1 Rebel County.

4.00 EVENING TIMES NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR MAIDEN STAKES

(£3,759: 1m 2f) (3)

1 32 KAMANEV 17 (BF) M Stoute 3-8-11 D Holland 1
2 4365 ROUND ROBIN 5 (B) C Thornton 3-8-11 J Weaver 3
3 00 SUMMER THYME 28 J Berry 3-8-6 T E Durcan (3) 2

30-100 Kamanev, 11-4 Round Robin, 20-1 Summer Thyme.

4.30 LADY ISLE SELLING HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £2,693: 7f) (8)

1 0600 ABSTONE QUEEN 4 (V,D,F,G) P Evans 9-7 T E Durcan (3) 1
2 2000 DONNA'S DANCER 10 (B) N Tinkler 9-3 Kim Tinkler 2
3 3164 FEEL A LINE 5 (B,D,F,S) B Meehan 9-3 J Weaver 7
4 0280 SAMSPET 2 R Fahey 9-1 DOUBTFUL 4
5 0080 TOM PLADDEY 21 R Bastiman 8-3 D Wright 8
6 5056 GROVEFAIR LAD 14 (BF) M Wane 8-2 Jenny Benson (7) 5
7 0804 ALISADARA 15 N Bycroft 7-10 M Henry (3) 3
8 0040 CHANSON D'AMOUR 7 Miss L Perratt 7-10 J McAuley (7) 6

13-8 Feel A Line, 5-2 Donna's Dancer, 9-2 Abstone Queen, 11-2 Grovefair Lad, 12-1 Tom Pladdey, Alisadara, 20-1 Chanson d'Amour.

5.00 AILSA CRAIG HANDICAP

(£4,018: 6f) (13)

1 0400 GARNOCK VALLEY 97 (B,C,D,F,G,S) J Berry 7-9-11 M Gallagher 7
2 410 HEVER GOLF ROCKET 16 (D,G) T Naughton 3-9-6 J Weaver 1
3 5041 SALIO 12 (B) A Bailey 4-9-4 D Wright 13
4 4040 JUST BOB 2 (C,D,F,G) S Kettlewell 8-9-3 Jenny Benson (7) 11
5 0002 DON'T CARE 7 (B,D,F,G,S) Miss L Perratt 6-9-1 N Kennedy 8
6 2650 AMRON 8 (CD,F,G,S) J Berry 10-9-0 T E Durcan (3) 6
7 2043 JOHAYRO 4 (D,F,G) J Goldie 4-8-11 D Griffiths (3) 9
8 3684 SHONTAINE 29 (D,F,G) M Johnston 4-8-4 D Holland 2
9 4601 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 7 (D,F,G) J Eyre 5-8-4 J McAuley (7) 10
10 1635 SUEDORO 7 (D,F) J Goldie 7-7-11 Darren Moffatt (3) 12
11 0020 PATHAZE 4 (C,F) N Bycroft 4-7-10 M Henry (3) 3
12 4010 ZAIN DANCER 9 (B,D,G) D Nicholls 5-7-10 Iona Wands (5) 5
13 3560 DIET 29 (V,CD,F,G,S) Miss L Perratt 11-7-10 N Pollard (7) 4

3-1 Salio, 11-2 Johayro, 7-1 Don't Care, 8-1 Hever Golf Rocket, Another Nightmare, Suedoro, 10-1 Amron, Shontaine, Zain Dancer, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: B Hills, 20 winners from 58 runners, 34.5%; M Stoute, 9 from 28, 32.1%; S Kettlewell, 10 from 36, 27.8%; P Walwyn, 3 from 14, 21.4%; Mrs M Reveley, 16 from 96, 16.7%; A Bailey, 17 from 106, 16.0%.

JOCKEYS: D Holland, 14 winners from 54 rides, 25.9%; J Weaver, 27 from 143, 18.9%; Darren Moffatt, 7 from 55, 12.7%. Only qualifiers.

WORCESTER

THUNDERER

6.05 Dane Rose. 6.35 Yubralee. 7.05 Castle Secret. 7.35 Hurricane Blake. 8.05 Red Neck. 8.35 Fakir D'Avrilly.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

6.05 POLLY GARTER SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

SKY

(£1,923: 2m) (9 runners)

1 -810 CADDY'S FIRST 8 (D,F) S Mellor 5-11-10 T J Murphy
2 0-03 COLWAY PRINCE 8 (CD,F,G,S) A P Jones 9-11-1 A P McCoy
3 1F-6 GREEN'S SEAGO 8 (BF,D,F) H Kavanagh 9-10-13 B Powell
4 F2-3 DANE ROSE 14 (F,G) M Sheppard 11-10-12 R Dunwoody
5 -225 MASTER SHOWMAN 28 D Wintle 6-10-8 W Marston
6 U5-0 INCHYDONEY BOY 24 T McGovern 8-10-8 B Clifford
7 -F63 IRISH DOMINION 5 A Hobbs 7-10-2 R Greene
8 -600 GALLOPING GUNS 18 B Llewellyn 5-10-0 J Culloty
9 PP-0 MINNEOLA 52 K Bishop 5-10-0 G Supple (5)

11-4 Dane Rose, 7-2 Caddy's First, 4-1 Colway Prince, 6-1 Master Showman, 7-1 Green's Seago, 8-1 Irish Dominion, 12-1 Inchydoney Boy, 14-1 others.

6.35 WORCESTER ROWING CLUB NOVICES CHASE

SKY

(£2,887: 2m) (4)

1 -231 NO LIGHT 24 (CD,F,G,S) A Turnell 10-11-5 L Harvey
2 12-1 YUBRALEE 7 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-2 A P McCoy
3 U/4F RELKOWI 7 (F) H Manners 10-10-12 S Curran
4 6-FF MISTRESS TUDOR 7 S Mellor 6-10-7 B Powell

8-11 Yubralee, 2-1 No Light, 6-1 Relkowi, 25-1 Mistress Tudor.

7.05 ADAM BROWN BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION CLAIMING HURDLE

SKY

(£1,988: 2m) (6)

1 5-32 COONTOSSER 7 (B,D,F) M Pipe 4-11-7 S Wynne
2 53-2 CASTLE SECRET 15F (D,F,G,S) D Burchell 11-11-2 D J Burchell
3 -P46 TOUCH SILVER 5 (D,S) H Manners 7-10-13 A Dowling (7)
4 110- HAMADRYAD 112 (CD,F,G) Mrs Ward 9-10-10 Mr R Thornton (3)
5 160- CIRCUS COLOURS 75 (BF,D,F) J Jenkins 7-10-7 A P McCoy
6 LARRYLUKEATHUGH 264F R Jacks 4-10-5 Gary Lyons

8-4 Castle Secret, 5-2 Coontosser, 4-1 Circus Colours, 6-1 Hamadryad, 20-1 Touch Silver, 25-1 Larrylukeathugh.

7.35 RICHARD AND CHERRILYN WEDDING DAY HANDICAP CHASE

SKY

(£3,365: 2m 7f 110yd) (4)

1 43F- VICOSA 151 (BF,F,S) R Alner 8-12-0 Mr J Tizzard (7)
2 32P- HARRISTOWN LADY 70 (B,F,G) G Balding 10-11-7 B Clifford
3 -1P4 MAGGOTS GREEN 14 (C,F,G,S) J Bradley 10-11-5 R Johnson
4 24P1 HURRICANE BLAKE 24 (B,CD,F,G) M Pipe 9-11-3 A P McCoy

4-5 Hurricane Blake, 7-2 Vicosa, 5-1 Harristown Lady, 11-2 Maggots Green.

8.05 ARROW DISTRIBUTORS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

SKY

(£2,338: 2m 4f) (8)

1 P-31 RED NECK 18 (CD,F) P Bowen 6-12-0 R Johnson
2 1410 RED LIGHT 14 (B,D,F,G) J Jenkins 5-10-8 A P McCoy
3 354- LEAP IN THE DARK 137 Miss L Siddall 8-10-7 A Thornton
4 -543 DISTANT STORM 7 (V) B Llewellyn 4-10-4 Gary Lewis (3)
5 405- BLATANT OUTBURST 3F (V,BF,F) Miss S Wilton 7-10-1 A Maguire
6 0-3P CROCKNAMOHILL 28 (B) K Bridgwater 5-10-0 B Powell
7 0P0- MY HARVINSKI 71 (G) I Jones 7-10-0 Miss E J Jones (7)
8 P-P4 CHILLY LAD 14 R J Price 6-10-0 Mr O McPhail (7)

11-4 Red Neck, 3-1 Red Light, 5-1 Leap In The Dark, 6-1 Blatant Outburst, 7-1 Distant Storm, 8-1 Crocknamohill, 10-1 Chilly Lad, 20-1 My Harvinski.

8.35 TRICITY BENDIX NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,303: 2m) (12)

1 1 YOUNG DALESMAN 8 (G) A Streeter 4-11-2 T Eley
2 0P-0 POWERFUL SPIRIT 17F (V) J O'Shea 5-10-12 Michael Brennan (3)
3 /0-0 WELSH SPINNER 14 Mrs I McKie 6-10-12 W Marston
4 -042 BEACON LANE 14 D O'Neill 4-10-9 V Slattery
5 FAKIR D'AVRILLY 294F C Mann 4-10-9 R Dunwoody
6 SWEET OISEAUX 15F B Llewellyn 4-10-9 Gary Lewis (3)
7 0 HOME BY NOW 83 P Murphy 6-10-7 R Farrant
8 MISS NOBLE Miss L Bower 7-10-7 W McFarland
9 0/0 MRS DOUBTFIRE 24 R Akehurst 5-10-7 A Maguire
10 0 *RETURN TO BRIGHTON 14 J Bradley 5-10-7* R Johnson
11 INDIAN NECTAR 23F R Brotherton 4-10-4 L Harvey
12 SWEET AMORET 165F R Jacks 4-10-4 Gary Lyons

7-4 Beacon Lane, 5-2 Fakir D'Avrilly, 9-2 Young Dalesman, 7-1 Mrs Doubtfire, 8-1 Home By Now, 10-1 Return To Brighton, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 40 winners from 140 runners, 28.6%; C Mann, 7 from 29, 24.1%; Miss S Wilton, 4 from 19, 21.1%; M Sheppard, 3 from 15, 20.0%; G Balding, 18 from 96, 18.8%.

JOCKEYS: A McCoy, 37 winners from 142 rides, 26.1%; R Johnson, 13 from 68, 19.1%; R Dunwoody, 32 from 215, 14.9%; A Maguire, 23 from 158, 14.6%; T J Murphy, 4 from 32, 12.5%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Salisbury

Going: good to soft (good in places)

2.00 (1m) 1, **DESERT BEAUTY** (Pat Eddery, 10-11 fav); 2, **Villanca** (R Havlin, 7-1); 3, **Sunny Isle** (S Sanders, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Lonely Heart, 10 Beacon Silver (5th), 14 Curzon Street, 25 Cherrymentary, Hibernica (4th), Rosa Royale (6th), 33 Scent Lady. 10 ran. Nk, 2½l, 1l, 2½l, 1¾l. M Stoute at Newmarket. Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £1.60, £5.30. DF: £5.10. Trio: £55.50. CSF: £7.96.

2.30 (1m 4f) 1, **RUNNING FREE** (D Holland, 9-2, Thunderer's nap); 2, **Palaemon** (S Drowne, 5-1); 3, **Come Together** (C Lowther, 7-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Puteri Wentworth (4th), 8 Quarterstaff (5th), 10 Bonne Ville, 12 *Saltimbanco (6th). 7 ran. 1½l, sh hd, sh hd,* 6l, 5l. M Fetherston-Godley at East Ilsley. Tote: £3.80; £1.60, £2.10. DF: £10.60. CSF: £23.68.

3.00 (1m) 1, **ATLANTIC DESIRE** (D Holland, 5-2 fav); 2, **Rapier** (R Hughes, 6-1); 3, **Flamboyance** (Pat Eddery, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Muhtafel (5th), 7-2 Brilliant Red (4th). 5 ran. 1l, 1¾l, 4l, 18l. M Johnston at Middleham. Tote: £3.00; £1.50, £2.10. DF: £14.50. CSF: £15.67.

3.30 (7f) 1, **MIHRIZ** (A Clark, 8-1); 2, **Yalta** (Pat Eddery, 11-2); 3, **Al Masroor** (Dean McKeown, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Duello (4th), 11-2 Sovereigns Court, 14 Broughtons Turmoil, Impala, 16 Kristal Bridge (6th), 20 Lord Oberon (5th), 25 Dances With Hooves, Warren Knight, 40 Ela-Yie-Mou. 12 ran. 5l, 1¼l, 2l, 6l, nk. R Akehurst at Epsom. Tote: £11.80; £3.00, £2.60, £1.70. DF: £41.40. Trio: £92.20. CSF: £46.90. Tricast: £345.49.

4.05 (6f) 1, **SUPREME THOUGHT** (M Fenton, 7-1); 2, **Celandine** (A Daly, 20-1); 3, **Sylvan Dancer** (S Sanders, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Step On Degas (5th), 9-2 Savona, 11-2 Magic Lake (6th), 8 Nellie North (4th), 9 Will To Win, 14 Tayovullin, 50 Into Debt. 10 ran. 2l, sh hd, 1l, 2½l, 2l. L Cottrell at Cullompton. Tote: £7.80; £2.00, £5.20, £2.00. DF: £57.70. Trio: £261.90. CSF: £126.38. Tricast: £956.37.

4.35 (6f 212yd) 1, **RING THE CHIEF** (G Hannon, 10-3); 2, **Delight Of Dawn** (S Carson, 5-2 fav); 3, **River Seine** (R Cody-Boutcher, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Summerville Wood (6th), 8 Arnie (4th), Gwespyr, 50 Melos, Silent Symphony (5th). 8 ran. Hd, 4l, 7l, 4l, 3½l. M Usher at East Garston. Tote: £3.70; £1.20, £1.30, £2.20. DF: £3.50. CSF: £10.66. Tricast: £35.53.

Jackpot: £20,360.40 (part won. Pool of £25,808.99 carried forward to Newmarket today).
Placepot: £172.80. Quadpot: £84.90.

Market Rasen

Going: good to firm

2.10 (2m 1f 110yd) 1, **O Naan** (A P McCoy, 4-6 fav); 2, John Tufty (5-1); 3, Hever Golf Diamond (7-1). 9 ran. 1½l, 3l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.50, £2.10. DF: £3.50. Trio: £9.90. CSF: £4.61.

2.40 (3m 1f) 1, **Raglan Road** (R Johnson, 11-4); 2, Jim Valentine (14-1); 3, Sam's a Boy (4-5 fav). 5 ran. 10l, 20l. Miss E Emblinoos. Tote: £4.00; £1.50, £4.30. DF: £23.20. CSF: £26.25.

3.10 (3m) 1, **General Mouktar** (A P McCoy, 15-8 fav); 2, Mocbaskin (3-2); 3, Deming Bridge (5-2). 4 ran. Nk, 8l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.40. DF: £4.50. CSF: £7.88. Only three finished.

3.40 (2m 4f) 1, **Trap Dancer** (A Dobbin, 5-2 fav); 2, Sumeizi Shine (5-1); 3, Innocent George (9-2). 6 ran. 1l, 2l. P Monteith. Tote: £2.20; £1.60, £2.40. DF: £12.60. CSF: £16.13. Only three finished.

4.15 (2m 5f 110yd) 1, **Euphoric Illusion** (Richard Guest, 15-8 jt-fav); 2, Movie Man (8-1); 3, Eskimo Kiss (5-2). Saint Mirome 15-8 jt-fav. 6 ran. NR: Sidney Street. 30l, 12l. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £2.50; £1.60, £2.50. DF: £12.60. CSF: £15.94.

4.45 (2m 1f 110yd) 1, **Ine Mon** (M A Fitzgerald, 16-1); 2, Theme Arena (15-8 fav); 3, Lagan (5-1). 11 ran. 2½l, 1¾l. M Bielby. Tote: £19.80; £3.00, £2.00, £1.50. DF: £17.50. Trio: £36.80. CSF: £45.18. Tricast: £169.03.

Placepot: £137.00.
Quadpot: £8.20.

☐ **Darryll Holland registered a double at Salisbury yesterday aboard Running Free and Atlantic Desire. The jockey is now just two off his best season's score of 71 winners, achieved in 1995. Atlantic Desire, having her third outing in the space of eight days, was sent out in front by Holland in the Cheviot Limited Stakes and pulled out extra to repel the challenge of Rapier by a length.**

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

2.20 (7f) 1, **CLERMONT CITY** (D Harrison, 14-1); 2, **Gralmano** (T G McLaughlin, 10-1); 3, **Celtic Comfort** (L Charnock, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 4-6 fav Tightrope (4th), 14 Persian Fortune, 16 Impulse (5th), 20 Edna's Gift (6th), Malozza, Percy, 25 Sixth Avenue. 10 ran. 1¼l, nk, 3l, 6l, 5l. P Chapple-Hyam at Manton. Tote: £26.20; £4.70, £1.90, £2.00. DF: £91.70. Trio: £156.70. CSF: £129.90. Tricast: £755.50.

2.50 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, **ALL IN LEATHER** (F Lynch, 4-1); 2, **Rutland Chantry** (D Harrison, 1-2 fav); 3, **Cantina** (D Wright, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 9 West A Bit, 20 Bustopher Jones (5th), 33 Flying Flip (4th), Fortune's Way, My Girl Lucy, 50 Who Dealt (6th). 9 ran. 11l, 3l, 8l, 7l, 17l. W Haggas at Newmarket. Tote: £4.70; £1.40, £1.10, £2.30. DF: £1.90. Trio: £40.60. CSF: £5.57.

3.20 (1m 100yd) 1, **NOR-DO-I** (J Tate, 6-1); 2, **Absolute Liberty** (G Duffield, 9-2); 3, **Sea Ya Maite** (D Wright, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 fav Canadian Fantasy, 6 Mike's Double (4th), 8 Bon Guest (5th), Ultra Boy, 10 Don Sebastian, 12 The Wyandotte Inn (6th), 20 Mujova, 25 *Komasta. 11 ran. 5l, ½l, 3l, 9l, 3½l.* J Eustace at Newmarket. Tote: £12.80; £5.80, £3.10, £4.30. DF: £68.40. Trio: £70.30. CSF: £33.26. Tricast: £213.16.

3.50 (5f) 1, **VILLAGE NATIVE** (D Harrison, 20-1); 2, **Aljaz** (J Quinn, 8-1); 3, **Time To Fly** (D Sweeney, 7-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 8 Hajat, Master Foley, 10 Broadway Melody (5th), Deerly (4th), Rowlandsons Stud, Silk Cottage, 16 Amy Leigh (6th), *Midnight Times, 20 Littlestone Rocket,* 25 Shavinsky. 13 ran. 3l, 4l, 1½l, ¾l, ¾l. K Cunningham-Brown at Stockbridge. Tote: £19.00; £4.40, £1.60, £1.40. DF: £70.10. Trio: £178.80. CSF: £167.61. Tricast: £411.35.

4.25 (5f) 1, **FEATHERSTONE LANE** (M Wigham, 5-1); 2, **Marjorie Rose** (D Wright, 4-6 fav); 3, **Ticka Ticka Timing** (D Sweeney, 40-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Efficacy, *General Sir Peter (ur), 16 Malsisio (5th),* 33 Breffni (6th), 66 Double Or Bust, Redspet (4th). 9 ran. 1¼l, hd, 9l, 3l, 4l. Miss L Siddall at Tadcaster. Tote: £6.40; £1.60, £1.10, £3.70. DF: £3.90. Trio: £34.80. CSF: £8.54.

4.55 (1m 6f 166yd) 1, **CERTAIN MAGIC** (P Doe, 10-1); 2, **Straffan Gold** (P Fredericks, 6-1); 3, **Dancing Queen** (D Mulhall, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 5-4 fav Alagna (6th), 7 Select Star (5th), 10 Silver Button (4th). 6 ran. Sh hd, 15l, 14l, 26l, 17l. W Muir at Lambourn. Tote: £12.30; £4.90, £3.50. DF: £17.50. CSF: £61.08.

Placepot: £348.70. Quadpot: £73.30.

French prize lures raiders

MONAASSIB, trained by Ed Dunlop and ridden by Daragh O'Donohoe, Deadly Dudley (Richard Hannon - Olivier Peslier) and Kahal (Saeed bin Suroor - Richard Hills) represent Britain in an eight-runner field for the group one £56,117 Prix Maurice de Gheest *(6f 110yd)* at Deauville tomorrow.

After the withdrawal of Pas de Reponse, the best of the home team is likely to be the Jonathan Pease-trained and Cash Asmussen-ridden Titus Livius, who finished runner-up to Don't Worry Me in the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot in June.

Bosman paying the price for players' freedom

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

BOSMAN is a footballese word for freedom. Thanks to the historic victory in a European court case of Jean-Marc Bosman, European footballers now have freedom of contract. This has given them the opportunity to become masters of their own fate and to hold out for wages that make them masters of the universe.

It is thanks to Bosman that, for example, Gianluca Vialli could get a free transfer from Juventus to Chelsea and to earn a guestimated £20,000 a week for warming the bench. There is scarcely a big name in European football that does not have cause to be grateful, directly or indirectly, to the Bosman ruling. Footballers should drop to their knees every time they hear the name of blessed Jean-Marc Bosman.

But Bosman has no greater reward than that of martyr's crown. He no longer plays football and lives only on the money he gets for interviews. He was involved in the making of a film about the case, but dropped out when they told him that he wouldn't actually be paid. His marriage collapsed under the stress of the case; he marries again next month. The couple say that the players' union has given them nothing, that benefit game he was promised in Spain never happened because the begrudging Spanish FA opposed it. Carole, soon to be Madame Bosman, said: "No well-known player has bothered to tell him, I'm on your side. That is the most horrible thing of all. He's suffering a lot."

Salary spiral

Meanwhile, the September edition of *Goal* magazine has come up with some figures about footballing salaries. Sir Stanley Matthews's annual earnings of £1,040 in 1955 work out in today's terms as £17,992. Geoff Hurst's annual salary in 1966 was £5,200, in today's terms £51,978. Bill Nicholson got £520 a year as a Spurs player in 1950, £8,996 today. Last year Alan Shearer earned £1.58 million.

Underlying trend

My fax machine, demonstrating an equanimity that mere humans can never match, sent snaking into my hands the latest sporting excitement from the Dennis Rodman industry. Yes, out curled Rodman's image, in his characteristic attire of panties and brassiere. It was the cover of ***Bad as I Wanna Dress — the Unauthorised Dennis Rodman Paper Doll Book.*** Yes. Rodman fans can dress their man as Marilyn, as Bette Davis, as Madonna and in various other outfits including a nun's habit and a prison uniform. There is even, for the stick-in-the-mud tendency, an outfit for Dennis as Chicago Bulls basketball player. From all bad bookshops now.

Brazilian flare-up

Just to complicate footballing matters, Brazil are going to be thrown out of world football. So says the gerontocratic Brazilian former water polo player, João Havelange, who runs world football. In his latest row with Pelé, he says that the unthinkable expulsion of the world champions will take place if legislation, backed by Pelé, in his capacity as Brazilian Sports Minister, is passed. This would make football club directors accountable, turn all players into free agents and take responsibility for disciplinary and refereeing tribunals away from the Brazilian FA. This body — which by one of those rum coincidences has as its president Havalange's son-in-law, Ricardo Terixeira — recently provoked outrage by reinstating two clubs relegated from the first division. However, the chances of anybody, even Pele, getting a Bill through parliament in recognisable form are said to be cosmically remote.

Yes, Son, of course we're pleased you've taken up basketball. It's just.....
1-1
Tom Humberstone

Naked truth

This column is always keen on *coaching innovations,* so I must salute Peter Schiltz, player-coach of the Bungaree team in Australian No Rules Football. "I was looking for a bit of inspiration," Schiltz said. "Something needed to be done *to lift our spirits. It was a spur-*of-the-moment decision." He ordered players to strip naked. They were permitted to keep on boots and socks. They did a lap of the ground and a ten-minute ball drill — in temperatures of 2C — and it went down well. "I actually had to tell them to get their gear back on," Schiltz said. Alas, Bungaree lost their next game.

Striking out

Latest desperate promotion gimmick from minor league baseball: a giant inflatable baseball mit at Cane County Stadium, Michigan. It advertises Wendy's hamburgers and the rubric thereon informs readers that batters who hit the mit — a home run of 440ft, a pretty hefty swipe — get $1 million (about £600,000). Brian DuBose, from the visiting West Michigan Whitecaps, did just that, *having lunched* at Wendy's before the game. Visions of fast wealth exploded before his eyes as he rounded the bases. "I was already back home in Jamaica as I reached first base." By second, he and all his *team-mates* were *out for a* fabulous meal. By third, his thoughts were in the stratosphere. At home base he was told that the deal only worked for players from the home team. Next day Wendy's *presented him with a free cheese*burger and a milk shake; also $500 in "food" vouchers.

☐ *The Nicolas Feuillatte Shane Warne Fizzometer at present stands at 16.*

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THE TIMES

ATHLETICS: BOLDON PUTS SETBACKS BEHIND HIM WITH 200 METRES WIN ON DAY OF MISSED OPPORTUNITY

Record slips away from triumphant Kipketer

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN ATHENS

JUST as yesterday was a pivotal day for Great Britain, one in which the reputation of British athletics would rise or fall with the attempt by Jonathan Edwards to win the triple jump, so was it too for the world championships here. The championships needed a lift to become memorable and now was the time of great expectation. But the uplifting moment did not come.

Day seven of the nine-day event featured the men's 800 metres and the women's 400 metres hurdles, two events that, more than any except for the men's 100 metres, carried hopes of a world record. Neither delivered.

Wilson Kipketer, the Kenyan who runs for Denmark, retained his 800 metres title but his attempt to break the world record, which he shares with Sebastian Coe, failed in the third 200 metres, as it usually does when he is close to the mark. Nevertheless, it was another dominant performance from Kipketer, who led all the way to win in one minute 43.38sec.

Boldon: slow time

Kipketer won by more than half a second but the women's 400 metres hurdles at least produced a race. Nezha Bidouane, from Morocco, passed Deon Hemmings, the Olympic champion from Jamaica, in the last three strides. Thus Bidouane followed in the footsteps of Nawal El Moutawakel, her countrywoman, who, in 1984, won the first women's Olympic 400 metres hurdles title.

When the event was introduced for women, dissenting voices suggested that it was not competitive enough to merit the elevation. However, each of the past four world championships has produced a thrilling race: in 1991 Sally Gunnell was second to Tatyana Ledovskaya, from Russia, by 0.05sec and, in 1993, the Briton beat Sandra Farmer-Patrick by the same margin; in 1995 the smallest fraction, 0.01sec, separated Kim Batten, the winner, from her fellow American, Tonja Buford.

Batten set a world record of 52.61sec that day and it still survives. After Hemmings had made a fast start, she discovered over the final three flights that she had misjudged her pace. Bidouane, coming from fourth to first in the home straight, recorded 52.97sec and Hemmings had to settle for the silver with 53.09. Batten was third with 53.52.

Ato Boldon won the men's 200 metres, albeit in a race slow by present-day championship standards. Despite a tailwind that exceeded the legal limit, the winner's time was the slowest of the Nineties in a world championships or Olympics.

Victory for Boldon was more important than the time, coming after a series of championship knockdowns. He was third in the 100 and 200 metres at the Olympic Games last year, but disappointed and failed to finish in the final of the 200 metres at the world indoor championships last March. Then, last Sunday, he was fifth in the 100 metres in a race won by Maurice Greene, his training partner.

Now, at last, success. "It has been difficult for me since Maurice won because he is just two doors down from me and he got more flowers and chocolates than most brides." Boldon, who recorded 20.04sec, said. "This was the hardest thing I have had to do because of how things turned out in the 100."

This has been a memorable week for Sri Lankan sport. Two days after the country's cricketers had beaten the Test-match record score that had stood for 59 years, Susanthika Jayasinghe became the first athlete from Sri Lanka to win a medal at the world championships when she finished second in the women's 200 metres.

Not since Duncan White finished second for the former Ceylon in the 400 metres hurdles at the 1948 Olympic Games had an athlete from that country won a global medal of any description. Jayasinghe was one of two athletes who caught Merlene Ottey treading water in the last 40 metres.

Ottey, 37, was attempting to become the oldest of all world champions and, coming off the bend, she had a one-metre lead. Halfway down the home straight, though, she tightened up, began to peck her head and was passed first by Zhanna Pintussevich, from Ukraine, then by Jayasinghe. Pintussevich thus added the gold medal to the silver she had won in the 200 metres, recording 22.32sec. Jayasinghe followed in 22.39 and Ottey in 22.40.

GARY M PRIOR / ALLSPORT

Edwards strains every sinew as he tries to retain his world triple jump championship in Athens yesterday

Edwards shows champion style in vain battle to keep his crown

Rob Hughes watches a Cuban surprise

ensure Britain's silver streak goes on

At the lowering of the sun over the Olympic stadium in Athens yesterday, we waited for Jonathan Edwards, the most realistic hope Great Britain had of bringing home gold from this world athletics championships. We longed for gold like water on parched tongues, not just through this event but through the barren Olympic Games last summer, and Edwards, our one defending champon, bore the remnants of hope.

It was unfair, really. The 31-year-old from Gateshead had come to Athens after six weeks of uncompetitive fare, had nursed a damaged left heel and yet, as he set about the six jumps yesterday, we saw not only the sinewy skill with which he has finessed the triple jump, turning the sport away from the powered musclemen that dominated before him, but also some appreciable champion's spirit.

It was so near, yet so far. Edwards finished in second place, winning Britain's fourth silver medal of the championships, beaten not by the Olympic champion, Kenny Harrison, of the United States, but by Yoelvis Quesada, a Cuban leaping to a lifetime's best.

Indeed, Quesada had surprised both Edwards, the 1995 world champion, and Harrison by taking the lead with his second attempt, with 17.85 metres. By then, Harrison was already in trouble, summoning no more than 17.05 metres; Edwards had started comfortably, registering 17.33 metres with his first jump.

The next two hours was to draw Edwards and those anxiously watching through the gamut of emotions. When he lost his rhythm on the second and third attempts, the normality of his preparations seemed to be overtaken by deep concern. His problem then did not seem to be the heel injury, nor the wind that blew gentle into his face, slightly capricious in that it ranged from pushing to 0.8 metres a second at his back to 0.5 against him.

"The heel was fine," Edwards said later, "but you are right, it is very much a rhythm event, especially for me being a speed jumper. I guess if I knew what I was doing differently [to 1995], I'd put it right."

The loss of rhythm seemed to come between the second phase of the hop and step, and the jump itself. First, he ran out to the left of the pit; then, with his third attempted jump, he had to try to rise in the air when impetus had deserted him.

Now the question was bearing down — is he a champion, can he overcome adversity, force himself to relax the body as the triple jump demands and rise to the challenger who was surprising him?

Jonathan Edwards is champion material. He paced around, trying to maintain the intensity of concentration, trying to be alone before a crowd that, on this day, was enormous, trying to focus beyond the intrusions.

Try to put yourself in his shoes. Ato Boldon has just won the 200 metres and is cavorting around, yards from the triple jump runway. A foreign anthem is playing for the medal ceremony of a completed event. The Greek crowd are rising to a pitch of near-hysteria because one of their countrymen had finished fifth in the 200 metres.

Blot it out! Try to hear nothing, see nothing, think of nothing but the runway, the take-off board, the 18-metre mark in the sand that has been so attainable to Edwards in the past. "A world record is possible here," he had said on Tuesday. "Certainly, I don't think I've jumped as far as I can. Maybe, I've jumped as far as I'm going to, that's always a possibility ... but on Friday I think I have to jump one centimetre more than Kenny Harrison for the gold."

By now, Edwards was aware that he had identified the wrong foe. He waited, paced again, looked for a friendly, encouraging face in the sea around him and then, right on his mettle, he prepared for the fourth jump. His arms raised above his head, he demanded the attention, the clapping of the people. His cheekbones sunken, his jaw set, he took off, sprinting with that feather-light style. He had the rythm this time, leapt 17.66 metres and our Christian boy twice shook his fist with the pent up aggression and relief that at least he was assured of silver.

But Quesada did not have to improve and in the last two jumps Edwards could achieve only 17.57 metres and then, his best of the evening, 17.69 metres. He was the first to shake the new champion's hand, to embrace him lightly, to acknowledge that this was not his day, nor Britain's championships.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Chance for Bradford to reassert authority

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE atmosphere at Bradford Bulls should be one of quiet euphoria. The club is on the verge of winning the Stones Super League, yet six defeats in the world club championship have put their dominance of the European game into perspective.

Bradford are unbeaten in 17 Super League outings this season and have rarely looked troubled in a runaway campaign to succeed St Helens as champions. Nonetheless, cheek by jowl with the losses to Australian and New Zealand sides, a first league championship for 16 years at Odsal cannot help but ring slightly hollow.

Last night the Bulls were hoping that Castleford Tigers would end London Broncos' mathematical chances of catching them, giving them the chance to secure the title at the expense of Leeds Rhinos, their other closest challengers, at home tomorrow evening.

Bradford would still be worthy European champions and it would be fitting if they could tie up the honours in a derby match against Leeds, whom they have beaten five times in their inexorable rise over the past two seasons.

Graeme Bradley, the Australian centre, said: "I hope Castleford can do us a favour, but all we will be concentrating on is ensuring that we pick up two points. Of course, we were disappointed that we didn't win any of our matches in the world club championship. But we are not down.

"We were dreadful against Auckland, had everything go against us in the Penrith game, and were close enough to Cronulla at 24-12 to have won, only for it to slip away. The point is that we qualified for the quarter-final stages by finishing third in our group."

Bradford have injury doubts for tomorrow about Robbie Paul, James Lowes, Paul Anderson and Jon Scales. Leeds, who will be without Ryan Sheridan at scrum half, must choose between Graham Holroyd, Dean Lawford and Gavin Brown to partner Iestyn Harris at half back. Richie Blackmore, at centre, could make his first appearance for two months after injury.

Dean Bell, the Leeds coach, said: "I feel it is only a matter of time before Bradford sew up the title and we just have to try and ensure that they don't do it against us. There are a number of reasons for us to finish as high in the table as possible. The world club championship, for instance, could be limited next year to the top clubs. I don't feel that Bradford's performances in the world championship will have any bearing on the game on Sunday."

In an increasingly tight battle to avoid the one relegation place, Paris Saint Germain entertain Halifax. Oldham, in bottom place, need to win tomorrow at St Helens to have any hope of avoiding the drop into the first division.

IN BRIEF

Lomu gets clearance to start training

JONAH LOMU, the All Black wing, has been given medical clearance to resume training after the completion of a six-month course of chemotherapy to treat a rare kidney disease. He hopes to win selection for the New Zealand tour of Britain in November.

His condition has stabilised and he will undergo a fitness assessment by the All Black medical team, who will prescribe a structured fitness programme to help with his full return to rugby. No date has been set for Lomu's return and he will be required to remain on medication to consolidate his improved kidney function.

A New Zealand Rugby Football Union spokesman said none of the medications would adversely affect his physical performance or contravene drug-testing regulations.

Record goes

Golf: Patrik Sjoland, of Sweden, broke the Karlstein course record by three strokes with a 61 to take a share of the Czech Open second round lead in Prague yesterday. Sjoland was only a stroke off the European Tour record for 18 holes and his ten birdies were two off the birdie record. He joined the Ryder Cup team hopeful, Ignacio Garrido and another Spaniard, Miguel Jiménez, on 131, 11 under par, to set the early pace, three strokes ahead of the field.

Floating well

Rowing: All seven British crews in the world junior championship in Hazewinkel, Belgium, are still involved, four through to the finals tomorrow and three in the semi-finals today. The men's and women's coxless fours took advantage of their repechages. The men had to finish in the top three to book a semi-final place. They led from the start and in the closing stages William Medling, the stroke, pushed the rate to 42 to hold first. The women's four, the Cinderella crew, continued to justify their last-minute selection by reaching their final.

Title returns

Boxing: Roy Jones Jr knocked out Montell Griffin, his fellow American, with 29 seconds remaining in the first round to reclaim the World Boxing Council light-heavyweight championship in Connecticut. Jones avenged the only defeat of his professional career, suffered last March when he twice struck a kneeling Griffin. Jones was disqualified and Griffin claimed the crown.

Boardman back

Cycling: Chris Boardman returns to signicant competition tomorrow leading his GAN team in the sixth round of the ten-race World Cup Series at San Sebastian, although not fully recovered from the shoulder injury that forced him to retire from the Tour de France.

GOLF: POWERFUL TEAM BACKED BY SOUND PREPARATION EMBARKS ON MISSION TO RETAIN WALKER CUP

Great Britain make strong case for the defence

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN SCARSDALE, NEW YORK

GREAT Britain and Ireland will begin the Walker Cup at Quaker Ridge Golf Club here today with a good chance of making a successful defence of this historic trophy. History is against the visiting team when this biennial match is played in the United States. Only once have they returned home with the trophy and that was by one point from Atlanta in 1989.

Why, then, is there an air of optimism about their chances in this match, the 36th? There are numerous reasons, all of which may melt away in the heat of the two days, during which four foursomes and eight singles are played daily, but at least the Royal and Ancient Golf Club cannot be accused of a lack of foresight or a reluctance to spend money on preparations for it.

First, the composition of the team appears to be a judicious blend of youth, experience and ability. Unlike previous years when selection has sometimes appeared arbitrary or parochial, there is hardly a player left at home who could mount a legitimate case for having been selected.

Graham Rankin, Barclay Howard and Gary Wolstenholme participated in the 14-10 victory at Royal Porthcawl two years ago. Six of the ten are under 30, three are in their thirties while Howard is the oldest at 44. Justin Rose, ten days past his seventeenth birthday, is the youngest to represent Britain and Ireland.

A second reason is that preparation has been unusually thorough in an attempt to erase the memories of two debacles — defeat by 16½-7½ at Sunningdale in 1987 and by 19-5, the largest in Walker Cup history, at Interlachen, Minnesota, in 1993. "This team could not be better prepared," Clive Brown, the captain, said, remembering the three get-togethers there have been in Britain and in Spain. One further example: on the corresponding weekend last August, Brown and George McGregor, the chairman of the selectors, flew to New York to acquaint themselves with the club and conditions.

The team of five Scots, two Englishmen, two Irishmen and one Welshman arrived in the US eight days ago and spent four days at a country club outside Baltimore, thus giving themselves time to acclimatise without spending too long at the venue. "Facilities were ideal," Wolstenholme, 36, reported. "We stayed in cottages, six to a cottage, and we could fall out of bed onto the practice ground. As a way of making the team gel it could hardly be better."

Finally, there is the quality of the team. "This side may be better balanced than the 1995 team," Wolstenholme said. "It has as much talent and perhaps more experience." Though it lacks the massive figure of Gordon Sherry, on whose broad shoulders so much responsibility fell in 1995, in Howard, the winner of the silver medal at the Open, it has one of the most experienced and capable.

Quaker Ridge is easy on the eye. It has fast greens and narrow fairways that have been mown crossways in contemporary fashion and are lined by thousands of trees. Accuracy will be at a premium, not only because of the narrowness of the fairways but also because the rough is tangly and difficult to penetrate. Yet length will be important, too. The 6,772-yard course contains eight par-fours that measure more than 415 yards. This will not be to the liking of Wolstenholme, a notoriously short hitter.

John Harris, 45, an insurance broker who returned to the amateur ranks after an unsuccessful spell as a professional, will fulfil the role in the US team that Sherry played in the British Isles team in 1995. In competition, he is a doughty rival. He has won seven out of eight points in his two previous appearances, including all four singles.

"To win a Walker Cup you need only four or five players to be at their absolute best," Peter McEvoy, himself a distinguished former competitor, said. It remains to be seen whether the visiting team has enough men playing at this level to give them victory, which would be their third in the past five matches.

WALKER CUP TEAMS

UNITED STATES: Downing Gray (captain), Jerry Courville Jr, Duke Delcher, Brad Elder, Jason Gore, Joel Kribel, John Harris, Randy Leen, Buddy Marucci Jr, Steve Scott, Chris Wollmann.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND: Clive Brown (captain), Michael Brooks, Richard Coughlan, Barclay Howard, Keith Nolan, David Park, Justin Rose, Craig Watson, Gary Wolstenholme, Steven Young, Graham Rankin

Reid delights gathering of the clans

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

THE clans were massing in the hills and glens of Perthshire as the Scots battled to repel the Sassenachs (and the Swedes, French and Australians) in the second round of the McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe yesterday.

More than 12,000 spectators tackled the ups and downs of the King's Course as Dale Reid, the Scottish veteran, ambled round in 66, six under par, to take the lead on 136, eight under.

She was two shots ahead of her compatriot, Catriona Matthew, and the Anglo-French duo of Lora Fairclough and Marie-Laure de Lorenzi. Kathryn Marshall, yet another Scot, was in the group on 139, alongside Laura Davies, England's finest, Rachel Hetherington, an ever-improving Australian, and Helen Alfredsson, the indefinable Swede.

Reid, 38, is an honorary member of the American Express European Tour, with 21 victories to her name. She last won on home turf in 1987, when the former Bowring Scottish Open was here at Gleneagles.

Reid, who has played in all four Solheim Cups, does not feel like a has-been, however. "I don't mind being history," she said, "but not while I'm playing. If I didn't feel I could still win, I wouldn't tee it up."

She has been revitalised by joining the US Tour. "I was getting bored," the Fifer, on tour from 1979, said, "and America's made me feel keener. It's probably improved my short game because you have to chip and putt well and I'm concentrating more on the greens."

Reid started with a birdie three and did not drop a shot, going out in 34, three under par, and coming home in 32, also three under, with birdies at the 17th, where she holed from 20 feet, and at the last, where she boomed her drive about 350 yards down the hill.

There is a lot of talk about Scotland being peopled by male chauvinists and football fans but not only had the Friday crowd grown by nearly 5,000 from last year, the number of volunteers involved had increased from 217 to 900. Because of this it has already been announced that £400,000 will be donated to the children's charities the tournament supports, double last year's bounty.

EARLY SECOND-ROUND LEADERS (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 136: C Reid 70, 66. 138: C Matthew 67, 71, L Fairclough 66, 72, M-L de Lorenzi (Fr) 68, 70. 139: K Marshall 70, 69; L Davies 71, 68; H Alfredsson (Swe) 74, 65; R Hetherington (Aus) 72, 67. 140: L Neumann (Swe) 71, 69; K Lunn (Aus) 69, 71; P Johnson 67, 73; A Nicholas 69, 71. 141: P Rigby-Jinglov (Swe) 74, 67; H Wadsworth 69, 72; S Prosser 74, 67. 142: J Morley 71, 71; C Sorenstam (Swe) 74, 68; C Pierce 70, 72. 143: P Sterner (Swe) 71, 72; L Brooky (NZ) 72, 71; B Pestana (SA) 74, 69; R Carriedo (Sp) 71, 72. 144: *A Rose 75, 69; M Hjorth (Swe) 71, 73.
* denotes amateur

EQUESTRIANISM

Irish eyes are smiling with Nations Cup win

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN DUBLIN

IRELAND, bolstered by two superb double clear rounds from Paul Darragh and Scandal — their least experienced partnership — won the Aga Khan Trophy at the Kerrygold Dublin Horse Show yesterday after a thrilling Nations Cup which was only decided in the final round. The success, greeted with prolonged applause by the packed Ballsbridge arena, is Ireland's fourth in the past seven years.

Britain, the favourites, had been joint leaders with Ireland at the end of the first round, but dropped to fifth place — behind Holland, the United States and Germany — after a disappointing second round by Geoff Billington and Virtual Village It's Otto.

But there was some consolation when it was announced that Britain had won the Bratislava Nations Cup in Slovakia to lead the Samsung Nations Cup series.

Paul Duffy, the course designer, had built an imaginative course for the event yesterday, but the first three members of the Irish and British teams each produced faultless first rounds and had no need to field their last riders — Eddie Macken on FAN Schalkhaar and John Whitaker on Virtual Village Grannusch.

It was a very different story in the highly charged second round. Nick Skelton on Showtime incurred four faults, a score matched by Trevor Coyle and Cruising, the first Irish rider.

Then it was Billington's turn. It's Otto stopped at the last part of the treble — and then ploughed through it. The Dutch-bred gelding then put in a huge jump over the last fence, propelling the luckless Billington out of the saddle. Billington was eliminated for not going through the finish.

Robert Smith salvaged some pride when he and Senator Tees Hanauer finished on four faults. Ireland, with four faults from Captain John Ledingham on Kilbaha and a second clear round from Darragh were on eight after their third rider had gone.

Whitaker needed a clear round to force Ireland into a jump-off but Grannusch dislodged a pole at the sixth fence and incurred a further four faults at the final fence to drop Britain to fifth place.

RESULTS: The Kerrygold Nations Cup: 1, Ireland 8pts; 2, Holland 8.50; 3, United States 12; 4, Germany 13.25; 5, Great Britain; 6, France. Positions in Samsung Nations Cup series: 1, Great Britain 30.5; 2, United States 27.5; 3, Germany 25.5. Kerrygold HB and Hurry: 1, Vink Drejesper (E van der Vleuten, Holl); 2, Mighty Blue (R Smith, GB); 3, Innocence (B Patton, US). Ridden Hunter Championship: 1, Wendy Trewhick's The General; reserve, R McElligott's Coincracker.

MOTOR RACING

Hard bargaining leads Coulthard into sales drive

From Michael Calvin in Budapest

THE job centre reopened for business in the pastoral setting of Mogyorod, on the wooded outskirts of Budapest, yesterday, as preparations for the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday were inevitably overshadowed by the seasonal struggle for survival.

David Coulthard responded to Damon Hill's implicit challenge for his job by claiming second place on the provisional grid behind Michael Scumacher, an effective amplification of the Scot's increasingly insistent claims for retention by McLaren.

For Hill, in fifth place after the solitary lap his Arrows mechanics were able to give him in the pivotal second session of the day, there was compensation in the visible discomfort of Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the man who has conspicuously failed to fill his seat at Williams.

Given the fraught circumstances, emphasised by Jacques Villeneuve's struggle to be eleventh fastest, it was not the most diplomatic of gestures for Frentzen to criticise the team for being unnecessarily diverted by the rule changes that will come into force next season.

Such dissent is frowned upon because of the evidence it offers of the internal weaknesses exposed by Ferrari's unexpected dominance of both the drivers' and constructors' world championship this year. Coming at the height of Formula One's silly season, where rumours become holy writ in moments, it was merely self-destructive.

Any change at Williams will inevitably trigger a domino effect down the pit lane, which is presently preoccupied by the employment prospects of Hill, who has a rare chance to excel on the high-downforce, low-speed Hungaroring circuit.

Peter Sauber, the owner of the eponymous Swiss team, confirmed yesterday that his attempts to sign Hill for next season, which would have been funded by Petronas, the Malaysian conglomerate, had failed. "We met several times and discussed terms, but we could not resolve our relationship," he said. "It had nothing to do with money."

That, inevitably, lent credence to suggestions that Hill's links with McLaren have strengthened significantly in recent days. The team's managing director, Ron Dennis, has asked Hill to keep him informed of developments, and Mercedes have dropped their insistence on the team featuring a German driver.

Coulthard: negotiating

The world champion made a clandestine visit to McLaren's headquarters in Woking on Tuesday. Informed sources believe his recruitment, on an annual contract worth between £5 million and £7 million, is a possibility. This, given the sudden resurgence in the form of McLaren's other driver, Mika Hakkinen, presents a genuine threat to Coulthard, who is negotiating his own future after instituting legal action against the International Management Group, his previous representatives.

"I don't think there is any danger of Damon being given my place," he said yesterday. "It is a question of whether they see him as the future, or not. I can win races, and I am only 26. I am going to be younger and cheaper."

It is, unarguably, a buyer's market. Typically, Jean Alesi sought out Eddie Jordan, his former employer, in the privacy of his motorhome yesterday morning. Since no one at Benetton seeks to contradict the conventional wisdom that the Frenchman's contract will not be renewed, there was something poignant about his subsequent admission that "it is important for me to get better results".

Intriguingly, Jordan could yet become a significant player in the futures of both Hill and Coulthard, although he has had no official contact with the world champion since a meeting at a hotel at East Midlands Airport last autumn, which left him with the impression he had secured Hill for 1997.

He appreciates the logic of Hill being engineered into a drive at McLaren, and understands Coulthard's long-term potential. Before that has any relevance, however, he would have to lose his legal fight to retain the services of Giancarlo Fisichella, who is understood to be going to court in Switzerland on Monday to free himself from a ten-year personal management contract with Flavio Briatore, Benetton's managing director.

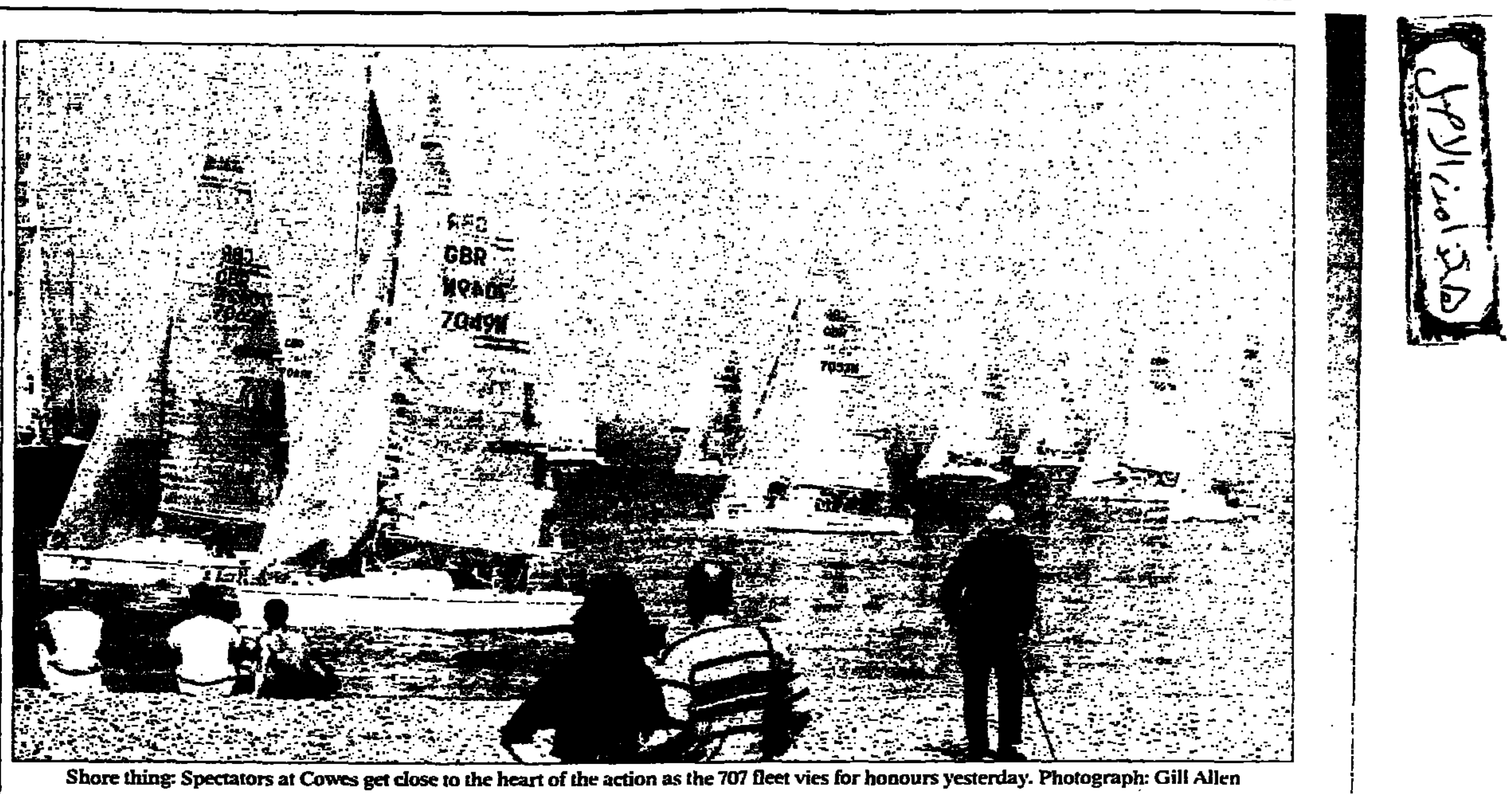
All this, of course, has nothing to do with the racing. At this time of year, a grand prix merely gets in the way of the manoeuvring.

DETAILS FROM HUNGARORING

PRACTICE TIMES: 1, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1min 17.583sec; 2, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:17.810; 3, J Trulli (It, Prost Mugen-Honda) 1:17.848; 4, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 1:17.884; 5, D Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:18.161; 6, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:18.368; 7, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart-Ford) 1:18.565; 8, G Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:18.686; 9, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1:18.734; 10, J Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 1:18.796; 11, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 1:18.805; 12, J Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 1:18.856; 13, G Berger (Austria, Benetton-Renault) 1:18.923; 14, J Verstappen (Holl, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:19.346; 15, J Alesi (Fr, Benetton-Renault) 1:19.358; 16, U Katayama (Japan, Minardi-Hart) 1:19.521; 17, G Morbidelli (It, Sauber-Petronas) 1:19.567; 18, P Diniz (Br, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:20.002; 19, M Salo (Fin, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:20.106; 20, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:20.176; 21, S Nakano (Japan, Prost Mugen-Honda) 1:20.414; 22, T Marques (Br, Minardi-Hart) 1:20.707

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after ten races): Drivers: 1, M Schumacher 53pts; 2, Villeneuve 43; 3, Alesi 22; 4, Berger 20; 5, Frentzen 19, 6, Irvine 18; 7, O Panis (Fr, Prost-Mugen-Honda) 15; 8, Hakkinen 14; 9, Coulthard 13; 10, R Schumacher 9; 11, Fisichella 8; 12, Herbert 7; 13, Barrichello 6; 14, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton-Renault) 4; 15, Trulli 3; 16, Salo 2; 17 equal, N Larini (It, Sauber-Petronas), Nakano and Hill 1. Constructors: 1, Ferrari 71pts; 2, Williams-Renault 62; 3, Benetton-Renault 46; 4, McLaren-Mercedes 28; 5, Prost-Mugen-Honda 18; 6, Jordan-Peugeot 17; 7, Sauber-Petronas 8; 8, Stewart-Ford 6; 9, Tyrrell-Ford 2; 10, Arrows-Yamaha 1

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: Tomorrow: Hungarian (Hungaroring). Aug 24: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps). Sept 7: Italian (Monza). Sept 21: Austrian (A-1 Ring) Sept 28: Luxembourg (Nürburgring). Oct 12: Japanese (Suzuka). Oct 26: European (Jerez).



Shore thing: Spectators at Cowes get close to the heart of the action as the 707 fleet vies for honours yesterday. Photograph: Gill Allen

McNeill's Vanity fares well at Cowes

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

AFTER a horrible start to the morning, when fog forced the principal race officer of the day, Tony Lovell, to delay proceedings for a couple of hours, Skandia Life Cowes Week finally took on a more familiar hue as the breeze filled in nicely from the west, the sun was the only feature in a cloudless sky and 920 yachts, of all shapes and sizes, were racing for as far as the eye could see.

Along the Isle of Wight shore there were some classic windward battles as successive White Group fleets set off from the Royal Yacht Squadron line and tacked their way as close as they dared along a beach thronged with spectators. Ahead of the Glenfiddich Melges 24s were the International Etchells, the local experts at getting out of the flood tide.

It was Julian Smith, in Elusive, who made the best of it, emerging at the Elephant mark 25 seconds ahead of Eddie Warwick's No 6 and holding on to win with Robert Tyrwhitt-Drake's Desperate second and Warwick third.

After the Dragons and Darings had carved their way elegantly up the same shore, it was at last the chance for the biggest and, some would say, the most exciting fleet at Cowes, the X-Boats, to have a go. The X-Boat owners have had a frustrating week, managing just one completed race in the first six days as successive race officers cancelled them for either a lack of wind or too much of it.

They may have been designed in 1908 but there is nothing remotely sloppy about the X-Boat fleet. Indeed there appear to be few boats sailing this year whose owners had not been to the sailmaker at the beginning of the season. Among the early pacemakers were X71 Wenda, skippered by Clare Pimm, and X171 Chartreuse, owned by Ronald Rogers.

It was, though, X47 Vanity, helmed by Willy McNeill, that popped out at the top mark at the head of the pack. From there he built a useful lead, and was almost three minutes ahead of the second-placed X43 Moonfleet, owned by Horace Mellery-Pratt, by the first leeward mark. McNeill held on until the finish, with Moonfleet second and X92 Persephone, owned by Richard and Liz Field, third.

In the Glenfiddich Melges 24s, meanwhile, the prize for the week was settled yesterday when Kevin Sproul, at the helm of Glenfiddich 1, finished second in the fifth race of the series, which was enough to take the title. Sproul, a former European champion in 420s, was unlucky to come seventeenth in the first race, but followed that up with three straight wins in a competitive semi-professional fleet.

He was delighted to win after his second place, behind Giorgio Zuccoli, of Italy, at Kiel Week in June.

BOWLS

Hawes flies the flag for youth

By David Rhys Jones

WHEN Katherine Hawes, who lost to Mary Price in the four-wood singles final last year, won the two-wood championship at Royal Leamington Spa yesterday, she became, at 27, one of the youngest winners of a national women's bowls title.

The City and County of Oxford player was extended only in the first round when Christine Wooler, of Surrey, held her to a modest 14-11 victory, the only time Hawes was required to play 21 ends.

In the final, too, she was always in control, taking a 14-6 lead over Ann Parker, of Nottinghamshire, after 14 ends, and winning 16-9 after 18 ends — or seven up and three to play.

The pairs final today should be a contrast in styles. Debbie Healey and Sharon Rickman, of Raynes Park, have been crowding the jack all week, while Ann Beale and Carol Duckworth, of Braintree, rely heavily on Duckworth's ability to convert adverse situations.

If the pony-tailed Healey, 35, and Rickman, 33, an indoor international for ten years, present the aggressive Duckworth, a former Zambia singles champion, with the targets she needs, there should be some fireworks.

Raynes Park beat Marske's Peggy Madden, a former British Isles singles champion, and Rose Jackson, 24-11, while Braintree accounted for a former England champion, Norma May, and Janet Smith, of West Cornwall, 21-12, in the semi-finals yesterday.

TENNIS

Sampras has to dig deep to oust Rafter

PETE SAMPRAS had a tough match against Patrick Rafter, the sixteenth seed from Australia, before securing a 7-6, 6-4 third-round victory at the ATP championship in Mason, Ohio, yesterday.

"It was a little bit of luck," the world No 1 said of his victory. "He was serving very, very well and holding serve pretty easy. It's one of those matches where I just got a little bit lucky and hung in there. It could have gone either way."

Jan Siemerink, of Holland, ranked 36th in the world, put out Goran Ivanisevic, the third seed from Croatia, 6-4, 6-4 in another third-round match between two left-handers.

☐ Monica Seles yesterday played nearly flawless tennis to beat Natasha Zvereva, of Belarus, in 43 minutes and reach the semi-finals of the Acura Classic tournament, in Manhattan Beach, California. After her 6-1, 6-1 win, the American said: "Whatever I tried worked well — serve, return, moving well."

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: North Melbourne 17.14 (116) bt Brisbane 9.5 (59).

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Mets 12 Colorado 4; Philadelphia 6 Houston 5 (11inns); Pittsburgh 5 Florida 1; Chicago Cubs 6 San Francisco 3; Cincinnati 7 San Diego 0; Montreal 4 Los Angeles 9; Atlanta 3 St Louis 0

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Kansas City 4 Detroit 8; Oakland 5 Milwaukee 4 (13inns); Toronto 4 Cleveland 0; Minnesota 8 Boston 7; Texas 2 New York Yankees 4; Seattle 3 Chicago White Sox 2.

BARCELONA: Intercontinental Cup: Japan 9 France 1; Australia 7 Italy 1; Nicaragua 18 Spain 0; Cuba 4 United States 1; France 9 Spain 4; Japan 7 Italy 0; Cuba 6 Nicaragua 0; Australia 17 France 3; Cuba 5 Italy 3; United States 12 Spain 1; Nicaragua 3 Japan 2; Australia 15 Spain 5; United States 12 France 2; Nicaragua 7 Italy 5; Cuba 7 Japan 3.

BASKETBALL

MELBOURNE: World under-22 championships: Quarter-finals: Puerto Rico 77 Spain 71, Argentina 74 Lithuania 57; Yugoslavia 75 Turkey 57; Australia 81 United States 63.

BOWLS

WOODBRIDGE HILL, Guildford: Second international match: England 10 Australia 1

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA: Women's national championships: Pairs: Quarter-finals: A Beal and C Duckworth (Braintree) bt L Dent and M Bonsor (Blackwell, Derbyshire) 22-19. Semi-finals: D Healey and S Rickman (Raynes Park, London) bt R Jackson and P Madden (Marske-by-Sea, Yorks) 24-11, Beale and Duckworth bt J Smith and N May (West Cornwall) 21-12 Two-wood singles: Quarter-finals: A Parker (Carlton Conway, Notts) bt R Heliens (Portishead, RSL) 16-7; M Barker (Blackwell) bt E Franklin (Bolton) 14-11; K Hawes (Oxford C and C) bt P Strong (Lincoln Railway) 16-9; J Baxter-Avison (Nottingham Cavaliers) bt W Day (Pershore, Worcs) 16-13. Semi-finals: Parker bt Barker 18-8; Hawes bt Baxter-Avison 16-8. Final: Hawes bt Parker 16-9.

BOURNEMOUTH: Open tournament: Fifth round: G Brock bt J Cotton 21-17; C Martin bt M Marchant 21-10; J Plomer bt R Wood 21-13; D Wilson bt P Varvacopoulos 21-20; D Heard bt W Garnett 21-18; H Duff bt R Ford 21-16; A Mason bt B Martin 21-13; J Forey bt W Gathercole 21-19, C Turrell bt R Vinter 21-17; D Candeland bt I Reeves 21-9; D Wilkins bt P Whiteley 21-11; C Easton bt R Pinder 21-14; M Dare bt B Relland 21-9; D Morgan bt J Haines 21-10; J Davies bt N Smith 21-17; A Mayne bt L Reed 21-12. Sixth round: Martin bt Brock 21-12; Plomer bt Wilson 21-14; Duff bt Heard 21-13, Forey bt Mason 21-15; Turrell bt Candeland 21-13; Wilkins bt Easton 21-13. Morgan bt Dare 21-11; Davies bt Mayne 21-13.

BOXING

LEDYARD, Connecticut: World Boxing Council heavyweight championship: R Jones Jr (US) bt M Griffin (US, holder) ko 1st.

BANGKOK: World Boxing Association junior bantamweight championship: Yokthai Sith Oar (Thai, holder) bt J Rojas (Arg).

CYCLING

TOUR OF PORTUGAL: Eleventh stage (36.9km time-trial, Torre da Dona Chama to Mirandela) 1, J Azevedo (Por) 47min 43sec; 2, A Amaral (Por) at 5sec, 3, C Barbosa (Por) at 32; 4, J Andrade (Por) at 35; 5, J C Vicario (Sp) at 55.

FOOTBALL

SCOTTISH COCA-COLA CUP: Second round: Hamilton Academical 0 Rangers 1

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Woking 3 Aldershot 0; Emley 1 Oldham 1; Alfreton 0 Emley 2; Northwood 0 Harrow 4; Hyde 1 Manchester City 3; Carshalton 1 Crystal Palace XI 0.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Rennes 0 Lyons 3; Auxerre 2 Paris Saint-Germain 3.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: United States 0 Ecuador 1 (in Baltimore).

CENTENARY CUP: Benfica 0 Olimpia 0; Cruzeiro 2 Flamengo 1 (both in Belo Horizonte).

COPA LIBERTADORES: Final, first leg: Sporting Cristal (Peru) 0 Colo Colo (Chile) 0.

ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Gimnasia Jujuy 1 Huracan 1; Lanus 2 Gimnasia Esgrima 1; Estudiantes 1 Banfield 1; Rosario Central 1 Deportivo Español 0; Huracan Corrientes 0 Velez Sarsfield 1; Ferrocarril Oeste 1 Racing Club 1; River Plate 1 Newell's Old Boys 0; Colon 0 Union 0; San Lorenzo 1 Independiente 0; Platense 1 Boca Juniors 0

GOLF

PRAGUE: Chemapol Czech Open: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated, 36 players to complete round today): 131: M A Jiménez (Sp) 67, 64; I Garrido (Sp) 66, 65; P Sjoland (Swe) 70, 61. 133: D Chopra (Swe) 70, 63. 134: S Field 68, 66; C Whitelaw (SA) 68, 66; S Gallacher 68, 66. 135: M Florioli (It) 67, 68; J Haeggman (Swe) 69, 66; P Price 68, 67; D Edlund (Swe) 70, 65; N Fasth (Swe) 70, 65; S Struver (Ger) 66, 69; R Russell 66, 69; L Westwood 67, 68. 136: S Lane 72, 64; D Clarke 69, 67, P Eales 69, 67; F Jacobson (Swe) 68, 68; A Oldcorn 67, 69; D Robertson 67, 69; K Eriksson (Swe) 69, 67; J Rivero (Sp) 68, 68. 137: B Davis 71, 66; B Langer (Ger) 70, 67; A Johnstone (Zim) 68, 69; R Davis (Aus) 69, 68; W Riley (Aus) 67, 70; V Phillips 70, 67; R Chapman 69, 68; P Harrington 69, 68. 138: P O'Malley (Aus) 66, 72; J Mellor 70, 68; P Hedblom (Swe) 67, 71; G Brand Jr 69, 69; A Cejka (Ger) 71, 67. 139: R Lee 73, 66; S Torrance 71, 68; R McFarlane 72, 67; A Coltart 72, 67; J Spence 68, 71; A Sherborne 70, 69, R Burns 72, 67; P McGinley 72, 67; G Orr 73, 66; S Scahill (NZ) 72, 67; T Gogele (Ger) 72, 67; K Valnola (Fin) 70, 69; A Forsbrand (Swe) 67, 72; P Mitchell 70, 69; J Lomas 69, 70.

GRAND BLANC, Michigan: PGA Buick Open: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 62: S Skinner. 66: N Henke. 67: J Furyk, F Funk, L Wadkins, H Sutton, V Singh (Fiji), R Alarcon (Mex), Joe Ozaki (Japan), D Duval, J Morse, C Perry. 68: E Els (SA), D Forsman, R Cochran, L Mize, B Fleisher.

AGWAM, Massachusetts: LPGA Friendly's Classic: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 68: J Pitcock, C Johnson. 69: K Webb (Aus) 70: S Steinhauer, K Saiki, P Hurst, A Fruhwirth. 71: K Tschetter, D Pepper, M Nause, A Finney, V Fergon, M Dobek, J McGill, J Briles-Hinton, D Ammaccapane, C H Koch (Swe). Other European scores: 72: N Dachs (Swe). 73: E Dahllof (Swe) 77: A M Palli (Fr).

WEST KILBRIDE: British girls amateur championship: Quarter-finals: K Icher (Fr) bt P Marti (Sp) 4 and 3; C Laurens (Fr) bt J Kraschinski (Ger) 3 and 1, K Engstrom (Swe) bt F Piovano (It) 1 hole, M Nagl (Ger) bt M Garcia-Estrada (Sp) 1 hole. Semi-finals: Laurens bt Icher 2 and 1, Nagl bt Engstrom at 19th.

HOCKEY

HARARE: Women's World Cup qualifying tournament: Pool A: England 4 South Africa 4; India 3 Canada 0

RUGBY LEAGUE

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Halifax 16 Hull 22

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): St George 22 North Sydney 14.

AUSTRALASIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Cronulla Sharks 28 Adelaide Rams 6

SAILING

SKANDIA LIFE COWES WEEK: New York YC Cup (Class 1 and Maxi): 1, Independent Bear (T Louis and K Hobday), 2, Red Sorcerer (D Wood); 3, Warlord VI (P Tolhurst) Class 2 CHS: 1, McFly (T Mack) 2, Garrety (J Garrett); 3, Xnantor (T Barclay) Class 3 CHS: 1, M Express (T Murphy); 2, Quencher (A and B Webster), 3, Circuteer (M Pelling). Class 4 CHS: 1, Slender Delta (B Harmer); 2, Ace (J Layfield); 3, Prime Cut (P Parker) Class 5 CHS: 1, Mustang Sally (W Siegel and W Tompkins); 2, Veni Ast (Five Star Sailing), 3, Catch (M Lawson). Class 6 CHS: 1, Vampire (D Moore); 2, Shallot (M Moody), 3, Gambit 76 (Robert Salter) Class 7 ISC: 1, Le Fred (T and J Pettit), 2, Jazz (P Ogden), 3, Moshulu (R Borton) Class 8 ISC: 1, Uiona (D Steele); 2, Diomedes (R Bartow); 3, Bionic Cherry (M Dixon) Class 9A SBR: 1, Rawhide (M Lennon); 2, Corker (C Nicholson); 3, T Bone (J English and T Durcan) Class 9B SBR: 1, Yachting World's "Nicole" (Beneteau UK). 2, Hullabulloo (P Allen); 3, Getafix (R Humphreys). Sigma 38: 1, Steamy Windows (N and A Haigh), 2, Fat Chance (R Lee); 3, Protom (J Bradney) Sunfast 36: 1, Sunsail Eagle Star (Eagle Star Insurance); 2, Sunsail Thirty-Two (Team DKO); 3, Sunsail Eight (Panacea) Sigma 33: 1, Gwil (F Gooderham); 2, Summation (J and T J Wright and R Skan). 3, Shadowlax (J Nelson) X-99: 1, Mizu Nix (A Vegt and J Huyghe); 2, Reflex (P and J Blakey); 3, Next Jekyll (A McIlvane). Contessa 32: 1, Red Apple (M Jaffe); 2, Merak II (N Bradley), 3, Nyamnyam (F and K Williams) Glenfiddich Melges 24: 1, Glenfiddich 1 (Melges Racing), 2, Rawhyde (D Hall); 3 A Ali Ullman Sails (G Zuccoli and F Niggeler) Hunter 707. 1, Tea Party (M Hoar); 2, Hitch Hiker (D Wheldon), 3, Rafiki (R Woolf). National Sonata: 1 Pied Piper (J and J Hardie), 2, Billericay Dicky Two (P Scott); 3, Zebedee (R Hay) Sonar: 1, Switzerland (P Moerch); 2, Great Britain II (J Robertson), 3, Great Britain I (Andrew Cassell Foundation). Daring: 1, Medina II (D Byatt, P Buckley and T Guiness); 2, Dolphin (K Newman and J Terry); 3, Streak (H Janson and J Dibben). International Etchells: 1, Vasha Of Cowes (W Sanderson); 2 Shamal (T Herbert-Smith and H Evans), 3, Ursa Major (N Wakefield). International Dragon: 1, Sapphire III (J MacDonald and J Biddle) 2 Frantic (J Williams), 3, Peer Gynt (R Jordan and R Bullock) National Swallow: 1, Boomerang (J and G Buckwell), 2, Serenade (H Kemp and R Rous) 3, Goosander (M Upton N Pattison and W Knight) Redwing: 1 Quail (J Peel). 2, Toucan (Mr and Mrs C Samuelson); 3, Avocet (M Mackinnes and Sir M Richardson) Solent Sunbeam: 1 Bryony (S Stoddard and O Muller). 2, Mercy (Commander J Ford and R Boissevain). 3 Symphony (Mr and Mrs A Robinson) Seaview Mermaid: 1, Sirena (S Sheed), 2, Zara (C Tilley and M Smith) 3, Miranda (W Caws) National Squib: 1 Crusoe (B Foulkes); 2, Gip (P Somers and P Hunter); 3, Mr Bumble (T Farquhar). Cork 1720: 1, Corker (C Nicholson), 2, T Bone (J English and Tom Durcan) 3, Le Bouchon (S Hawthorn)

SHOOTING

BISLEY. NCRA invitation meeting: Junior women: 3X20 rifle: 1, S Karnowska (GB) 570pts (record) 2, S Landwehr (Ger) 564 3, B Spicer (GB) 558 Junior men: Air pistol: 1, S Preston (GB) 672.8, 2, M Eke (GB) 649.9; 3, N Schmier (Ger) 648.5 Prone rifle: 1 J Hammond (GB) 686.9 2 J Croydon (GB) 683.9 3 A French (GB) 681 Prone teams: 1, Great Britain (French, C Joyce, J Mullen) 1,731 2, Great Britain (M Snerley, D Hiller, G Hiller) 1,730 3, Great Britain (P Algar A Cerrino, J Hammond) 1,708

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Ipswich 45 King's Lynn 45

PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield 49 Stoke 41.

SQUASH

RIO DE JANEIRO: World junior women's team championship: Quarter-finals: England 3 Canada 0 (England names first: T Bailey bt A Miller 9-2, 9-5, 9-3, C Beaumont bt A di Mauro 9-1, 9-1, 9-6, L Briggs bt R Rela 8-10, 9-2, 9-5). Malaysia 2 Spain 1; Belgium 3 Germany 0; New Zealand 3 Egypt 0 Play-offs: Ninth place: France 2 Ireland 1 (France names first: I Stoehr bt A Brake 9-3, 9-0, 10-9; V Florens bt C Healy 10-8, 9-5, 9-4, N Bowden lost to S Fairley 7-9, 5-9, 0-9) South Africa 2 United States 1 Fifteenth place: Wales 2 Brazil 1 (Wales names first: L Griffiths lost to M Pontalti 7-9, 9-7, 9-10, 1-9 G Benjamin bt D Schenkel 9-0, 9-5, 9-0, A Vaughan bt N Coelho 9-0, 9-7, 6-9, 10-9)

TENNIS

MASON, Ohio. Men's tournament: Third round: A Costa (Sp) bt A Corretja (Sp) 6-1, 7-6, T Muster (Austria) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, P Sampras (US) bt P Rafter (Aus) 7-6, 6-4, S Bruguera (Sp) bt J Novak (Cz) 7-6, 6-3, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt M Rios (Chile) 7-5, 6-2; G Kuerten (Br) bt V Spadea (US) 6-7, 6-3, 6-4 M Chang (US) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, J Siemerink (Holl) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 6-4, 6-4

SAN MARINO. Men's tournament: Second round: F Mantilla (Sp) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, C Ruud (Nor) bt J Mann (Sp) 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, C Costa (Sp) bt R Furlan (It) 5-7, 6-2, 6-3, J Sanchez (Sp) bt H Gumy (Arg) 6-3, 6-3

LOS ANGELES: Women's tournament: Second round: A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-3, 7-5, A Huber (Ger) bt V Williams (US) 7-6, 6-4, N Tauziat (Fr) bt K Po (US) 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 Quarter-final: M Seles (US) bt N Zvereva (Bela) 6-1, 6-1

SOUTHSEA: Satellite tournament (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated) Men: First round: A Turner (NZ) bt G Nateker (India) 6-3, 6-2 N Gould bt P Magns 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 P Hand bt M Arnold (US) 6-3, 7-6; A Parmar bt M Wyeth 6-2, 6-3; A Pantor (Aus) bt S Swerk (Aus) 6-2, 7-6; R Loel (US) bt I Sales 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; T Dalby bt V Venkataraghavan (India) 7-6, 6-3; J Fox bt L Vosloo (SA) 6-0, 6-3; M Menzler (Ger) bt D Belcher 6-0, 6-1, J Davidson bt C Edmondson 6-3, 6-3; T Mitchell (Aus) bt D Sherwood 7-5, 6-4; C Wilkinson bt A Naumann (Aus) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; D Roberts (SA) bt L Bourgeois (Aus) 7-5, 6-0; C Snell (Aus) bt D Lobb 6-2, 7-6, O Freelove bt A Wirt (US) 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 Second round: Hand bt Gould 6-4, 6-4, Menzler bt Fox 6-3, 6-4, Mitchell bt Davidson 6-2, 6-2; Wilkinson bt A Foster 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; Roberts bt Turner 6-0, 6-4. Parmar bt Snell 7-6, 6-2; Freelove bt Pantor 6-4, 6-1, Loel bt Dalby 6-4, 7-6 Quarter-finals: Wilkinson bt Roberts 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, Parmar bt Hand 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; Mitchell bt Menzler 7-5, 7-5 Women: First round: G Biggs (Aus) bt J White 6-2, 6-1, J Dewson bt L Wood 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; J Lutrova (Russ) bt G Nelland 6-2, 6-4; W Fix (Aus) bt K Elbon 7-6, 6-3, A Jensen (Aus) bt A Cohen (US) 6-1, 2-6, 6-0, N Egorova (Russ) bt O Perkins 6-3, 6-2, J Ward bt S Meyer (Ger) 6-0, 6-0; H Crook bt A Ponnappa (India) 6-7, 6-2, 6-1; C Watson (Aus) bt M Malhotra (India) 6-1, 3-6, 6-4; E Jelfs bt N Payne 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. L Ogan bt A Augustus (US) 7-5, 1-6, 7-5; S Stanley (Aus) bt I Plesu (Can) 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, L Gabai (Isr) bt C Udofa (Nigeria) 6-2, 6-2; H Matthews bt C Grunes (Ger) 1-6, 6-1, 6-1. S de Beer (SA) bt M Joubert (SA) 7-5, 7-6. Second round: Biggs bt Crook 5-7, 6-3, 3-0 ret, Lutrova bt Dawson 6-2, 6-1, Egorova bt Jensen 6-0, 6-3. Jelfs bt Ogan 7-5, 6-2; Ward bt De Beer 6-3, 1-6, 7-5, Watson bt Malhotra 7-6, 6-3; T Musgrave (Aus) bt Stanley 7-5, 6-4; Gabai bt Matthews 6-3, 6-1 Quarter-finals: Lutrova bt Biggs 1-6, 6-1, 6-3, Egorova bt Watson 6-3, 6-4, Musgrave bt Jelfs 6-1, 6-4

RESULTS FROM THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ATHENS

Men

200m

Final

1, A Boldon (Trin) 20.04sec; 2, F Fredericks (Nam) 20.23; 3, C Da Silva (Br) 20.26; 4, I Garcia (Cuba) 20.31; 5, G Panagiotopoulos (Gr) 20.32; 6, O Thompson (Barbados) 20.37; 7, J Drummond (US) 20.44; 8, P Stevens (Bel) 20.44.

800m

Final

1, W Kipketer (Den) 1min 43.38sec; 2, N Tellez (Cuba) 1:44.00; 3, R Kenah (US) 1:44.25; 4, P Konchellah (Ken) 1:44.26; 5, V Rodal (Nor) 1.44.53; 6, M Koers (Holl) 1:44.85; 7, P Ndururi (Ken) 1:45.24; 8, M Everett (US) 1:49.02.

Triple jump

Final

1, Y Quesada (Cuba) 17.85m; 2, J Edwards (GB) 17.69; 3, A Urrutia (Cuba) 17.64; 4, D Kapustin (Russ) 17.59; 5, B Wellman (Bermuda) 17.22; 6, J Romain (Dom Rep) 17.17; 7, C Meletoglou (Gr) 17.12; 8, A Owusu (Gha) 17.11; 9, K Harrison (US) 17.05; 10, S Hélan (Fr) 16.97; 11, C Friedek (Ger) 16.86; 12, A Martirosyan (Arm) 16.70

Discus

Qualifying round

63.00 metres or leading 12 qualify for final

QUALIFIERS: Group one: 1, J Schult (Ger) 64.60m; 2, V Sidorov (Ukr) 63.08; 3, V Kaptyukh (Bela) 63.06; 4, A Seelig (Ger) 62.94; 5, A Tammert (Est) 62.18; 6, J Tunks (Can) 61.82. Did not qualify: 19, G Smith (GB) 54.40. Group two: 1, L Riedel (Ger) 66.46; 2, V Alekna (Lith) 65.22; 3, A Setliff (US) 63.72; 4, J Godina (US) 63.48; 5, V Dubrovshchik (Bela) 62.30; 6, R Weir (GB) 62.26.

Women

200m

Final

1, Z Pintusevich (Ukr) 22.32sec; 2, S Jayasinghe (Sri Lanka) 22.39; 3, M Ottey (Jam) 22.40; 4, Y Leshchova (Russ) 22.50; 5, I Miller (US) 22.52; 6, M Trandenkova (Russ) 22.65; 7, M Gainsford-Taylor (Aus) 22.73; 8, S Félix (Fr) 22.81.

400m hurdles

Final

1, N Bidouane (Mor) 52.97sec; 2, D Hemmings (Jam) 53.09; 3, K Batten (US) 53.52; 4, T Tereshchuk (Ukr) 53.81; 5, D Parris (Jam) 54.19; 6, Tonja Buford-Bailey (US) 54.77; 7, S Smith (Ire) 55.25; 8, A Blackett (Barbados) 55.63.

4 x 100m relay

Semi-finals

First three teams in each heat plus two next fastest overall qualify for final

QUALIFIERS: First heat: 1, United States 41.52sec; 2, France 42.53; 3, Nigeria 43.00 Second heat: 1, Bahamas 42.19; 2, Jamaica 42.31, 3, Germany 42.51; 4, Russia 42.69; 5, China 42.92.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Men: 110 metres hurdles: Final: 1, A Johnson (US) 12.93sec; 2, C Jackson (GB) 13.05; 3, I Kovac (Slovakia) 13.18; 4, F Schwarthoff (Ger) 13.20; 5, D Philibert (Fr) 13.26, 6, T Reese (US) 13.30; 7, M Crear (US) 13.55. Did not start: A Kohutek (Pol) Decathlon: Final positions: 1, T Dvorak (Cz) 8,837pts; 2, E Hamalainen (Fin) 8,730; 3, F Busemann (Ger) 8,652; 4, S Fritz (US) 8,463; 5, R Ganiyev (Uzb) 8,445; 6, E Nool (Est) 8,413; 7, S Schmid (Ger) 8,360; 8, M Smith (Can) 8,307; 9, R Sebrle (Cz) 8,232; 10, K Isekenmeier (Ger) 8,180; 11, I Kaseorg (Est) 8,140; 12, P Huber (Switz) 8,107; 13, C Lopez (Fr) 8,047, 14, M Dost (Holl) 8,040, 15, J Benet (Sp) 7,929; 16, P Korkizoglou (Gr) 7,867. 17, V Houston (Barb) 7,777; 18, M Anibal (Por) 7,768; 19, P-A Vial (Fr) 7,703; 20, O Vereteinikov (Uzb) 7,698

TIMETABLE

All times BST

TODAY: 08.05: Women's marathon final (start) 08.25: Women's marathon (finish). 16.10: Women's 800m final. 16.25: Women's long jump final. 16.30: Men's 4 x 100m relay first round. 16.55: Women's 100m hurdles first round. 17.10: Women's javelin final. 17.15: Men's 4 x 400m semi-finals 17.45: Women's 4 x 400m semi-finals 18.15: Women's 5,000m final 18.40: Men's 4 x 100m semi-finals. 19.05: Women's 4 x 100m final.

TOMORROW: 06.05: Men's marathon final (start). 08.15: Men's marathon (finish). 15.30: Men's pole vault final. 16.00: Women's high jump final. 16.30: Men's discus final. 17.00: Women's 100m hurdles semi-finals. 17.25: Men's 5,000m final 17.55: Men's 4 x 100m final 18.15: Women's 4 x 400m final 18.35: Women's 100m hurdles final. 18.50: Men's 4 x 400m final

MEDALS TABLE

	G	S	B	Total
United States	5	2	7	14
Germany	3	1	2	6
Cuba	3	1	1	5
Kenya	2	2	1	5
Morocco	2	1	3	
Czech Rep	2	2		
Ukraine	1	3	-	5
Poland	1	1	2	
Portugal	1	1	2	
South Africa	1	1	2	
Australia	1	1	2	
Mexico	1	1	2	
Denmark	1	1		
Ethiopia	1	1		
France	1	1		
Italy	1	1		
New Zealand	1	1		
Trin and Tob	1	1		
Great Britain	4	4		
Russia	2	2	5	
Spain	2	1	3	
Jamaica	2	1	3	
Belarus	1	2	3	
Canada	1	1		
Finland	1	1		
Namibia	1	1		
Romania	1	1		
Sri Lanka	1	1		
Uganda	1	1		
Bahamas	1	1		
Brazil	1	1		
Greece	1	1		
Japan	1	1		
Lithuania	1	1		
Switzerland	1	1		
Slovakia	1	1		

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

CRICKET

Fifth Cornhill Test match
11.0, third day of five, 90 overs minimum
TRENT BRIDGE: England v Australia

Tour match
11.0, third day of four
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Pakistan A

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, final day of four, 104 overs minimum
CANTERBURY: Kent v Essex
LORD'S: Middlesex v Hampshire
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Worcestershire
TAUNTON: Somerset v Gloucestershire
THE OVAL: Surrey v Durham
EASTBOURNE: Sussex v Leicestershire

NATWEST UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL MATCH (third day of four) Edgbaston: England v Zimbabwe
INTERNATIONAL MATCH (first day of three) Dublin (Malahide) Ireland v Scotland

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Alfreton v Belper Town, Ashford v Chelsea XI, Baldock v St Albans, Boreham Wood v Wimbledon XI; Crawley v Bognor, Enfield v Stevenage; Finn Harps v Longford (7.30), Gloucester v Hednesford, Hinckley United v Worcester, Kingstonian v Farnborough, Leighton Town v Hitchin, Margate v Dagenham and Red, Morecambe v Bradford Park Avenue, Northwood v Histon; Oxford City v Romford; Yeovil v Dorchester.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth v Norwich (2.0)

WILKINSON SWORD LEAGUE CUP: First round: Ards v Brantwood, Ballyclare v RUC, Carrick v Banbridge, Chimney Corner v Cliftonville; Cookstown v Larne, Crusaders v Armagh; Dundela v Ballymore United; Dungannon Swifts v Distillery; Glenavon v H and W Welders; Glentoran v Tobermore, Limavady United v Bangor, Linfield v Ballinamallard, Loughgall v Portadown, Moyola Park v Coleraine, Newry v Ballymoney, Omagh v Institution

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE. First division: Beckenham v Chatham; Canterbury v Corinthian, Deal v Cray; Faversham v Sheppey, Folkestone Invicta v VCD, Greenwich v Tunbridge Wells, Herne Bay v Crockenhill, Hythe v Whitstable Town, Lordswood v Erith; Ramsgate v Slade Green; Swanley Furness v Thamesmead

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Ipswich (11.0); Charlton v Fulham (11.0), Crystal Palace v Gillingham (11.0); Norwich v Cambridge Utd (11.0), Portsmouth v Queens Park Rangers (11.0); Southend v Leyton Orient (11.0), Watford v Millwall (11.0), West Ham v Tottenham (11.0) Second division: Barnet v Brighton (11.0); Bournemouth v Southampton (11.0); Bristol Rovers v Reading (11.0); Oxford Utd v Bristol City (11.0), Swindon v Brentford (11.0); Tottenham v Colchester (11.0); Wycombe v Luton (11.0)

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Tennents Cup: Clachnacuddin v Fort William, Cove v Buckie Thistle; Forres Mechanics v Elgin, Fraserburgh v Deveronvale, Keith v Huntly, Lossiemouth v Nairn County, Peterhead v Rothes, Wick Academy v Brora.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League
Paris Saint-Germain v Halifax
(at Narbonne, 7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Men's under-25 international: England v Australia (at Hornchurch). EWBA national championships (at Leamington).
CYCLING: National time-trial series (25 miles, Wetley 2.0)
EQUESTRIANISM: Dublin Horse Show
GOLF: McDonald's WPGA championship of Europe (at Gleneagles). Walker Cup, United States v Great Britain and Ireland (in New York)
HOCKEY: International match: Wales v France (in Cardiff, 2.30) Women's under-21 international match: Germany v England (in Brunswick, 2.0) European Junior Cup qualifier: Portugal v Russia (in Cardiff 11.30)
RUGBY UNION. Club match: Newport v Blackheath (3.30) Cwmtawe Sevens
SAILING: Skandia Life Cowes Week
SPEEDWAY: British Grand Prix (at Bradford, 7.0)
TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Southsea)

Tomorrow

CRICKET

Fifth Cornhill Test match
11.0, fourth day of five, 90 overs minimum
TRENT BRIDGE: England v Australia

Tour match
11.0, final day of four
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Pakistan A

Axa Life League
2.0, 40 overs
CANTERBURY: Kent v Essex
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Warwickshire
LORD'S: Middlesex v Hampshire
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Worcestershire
TAUNTON: Somerset v Gloucestershire
THE OVAL: Surrey v Durham
EASTBOURNE: Sussex v Leicestershire

NATWEST UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL MATCH (final day of four) Edgbaston: England v Zimbabwe
INTERNATIONAL MATCH (second day of three) Dublin (Malahide) Ireland v Scotland
MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two) Falkland CC: Berkshire v Wiltshire Slough: Buckinghamshire v Cambridgeshire St Austell: Cornwall v Oxfordshire Lakenham: Norfolk v Suffolk Jesmond: Northumberland v Lincolnshire Wellington: Shropshire v Dorset

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League
Bradford v Leeds (6.35)
Sheffield v Wigan (6.30)
St Helens v Oldham (6.0)
Warrington v Salford (3.0)

Divisional Premiership
Cumbria pool
Lancashire Lynx v Barrow (3.0)
Whitehaven v Workington (3.30)

East Yorkshire pool
Hull v Hull KR
(at Boothferry Park, 3.15).
Wakefield v York (3.30).

Lancashire pool
Keighley v Leigh (3.0)
Widnes v Swinton
(at Canal St, Runcorn, 3.0)

West Yorkshire pool
Batley v Bramley (3.15)
Huddersfield v Hunslet (3.30)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: EWBA national championships (at Leamington).
CYCLING. Havant Grand Prix (105 miles, Clanfield, 10.0am)
EQUESTRIANISM. Dublin Horse Show
GOLF: McDonald's WPGA championship of Europe (at Gleneagles). Walker Cup, United States v Great Britain and Ireland (in New York)
HOCKEY: International match. Wales v France (in Cardiff, 11.30) European Junior Cup qualifier: Wales v Portugal (in Cardiff, 9.30) Women's under-21 international: Germany v England (at Brunswick, 11.30)
MOTOR RACING. British touring car championship (at Snetterton)
MOTORCYCLING: British superbike championship (at Knockhill)
RUGBY UNION: Club match Pontypool v Blackheath (2.30)
SAILING: Skandia Life Cowes Week.
SPEEDWAY. Elite League: Coventry v Bradford (6.0), Eastbourne v Poole (3.30) Peterborough v Wolverhampton (6.0) Premier League: Newcastle v Berwick (6.30) Amateur League. Lathallan v Belle Vue (2.30), Mildenhall v Oxford (3.30); Peterborough v Long Eaton/ Wolverhampton (7.30)

Pace of Malcolm and belligerence of Stewart combine briefly to rekindle Ashes ambitions

Warne brings England back down to earth

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of five): England, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 239 runs behind Australia

EACH August, in their annual hour of need, the instinctive response of the England selectors is to shelve the fairweather policies of youth, continuity and balance in favour of another fling for Devon Malcolm and a crippling workload for Alec Stewart. It is a short-term salvage strategy, *but it enabled England to* spend two-thirds of a stirring day in dreamland.

Malcolm's regular mixture of the unplayable and the *unspeakable contributed three* of the seven Australia wickets to fall in a little over two hours, a barely believable start to the second day of this fifth *Cornhill Test. Then, in pursuit* of 427 when the worst-case scenario had been 200 runs more, Stewart batted with conviction for the first time *this summer.*

Half an hour after tea on a day of oppressive heat, England were 106 without loss and Stewart was bustling towards a century. It had been an uplifting performance by a team widely believed to have conceded the Ashes 24 hours earlier. Now, the victory it would take to keep the prize alive was not quite so unimaginable.

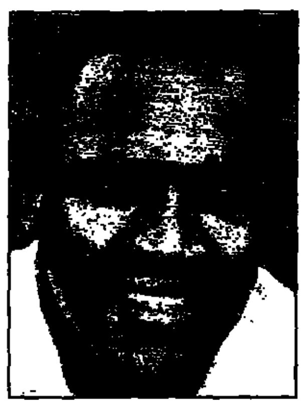
*Within an hour, such fanci*ful thoughts were crushed as England lost four wickets for 35. The first three of them went to Shane Warne, who recovered from some disrespectful treatment by Stewart to bowl quite beautifully. He will *probably win this game for* Australia; he will surely ensure that they cannot lose.

England, then, seem doomed to disappointment and yet, on the cricket that *they have played in this match* so far, the usual British tendencies to scepticism and scapegoats would be inappropriate. Outclassed they may be, but England have battled with a spirit worthy of admiration.

Fortune turned its back on them on Thursday, when they missed out on an important *toss and a couple of early* umpiring decisions, but heads were never permitted to drop. Yesterday *morning*, overdue rewards were claimed. The *ball was relatively new*, the early haze had not yet burned off and life for the Australia batsmen was made extremely difficult.

Andy Caddick was at them like a persistent wasp. His line was immaculate and he regu*larly induced steep bounce* and movement off the seam. Mark Waugh survived one leg-before appeal, playing no shot in Caddick's second over, *but was unarguably in line as* he pushed half-forward in his third.

This gave Caddick his 50th Test wicket, four years after *his first. Dean Headley will* not require so long, provided he remains fit. He too had *deserved better figures on* Thursday and he set about improving them by commit*ting Ricky Ponting to an* indeterminate shot, shuffling across his crease and chopping the ball on.



Malcolm: destructive

Healy narrowly survived his first ball, edging to second slip on the half-volley, and his innings was brief and breezy. *The recall of Malcolm first* brought a long hop, pulled with relish for four, but when *he found a proper length* Healy edged his drive and Adam Hollioake took the catch at waist height.

Malcolm had been utterly *ineffective on Thursday*, his action falling away and his *direction consequently awry.* Now, for no other reason than the adrenalin of a wicket, he *launched into one of those* destructive bursts that inflate his reputation and seduce so many into overlooking the majority of his Test returns.

Warne, *groping at a ball* angled into him, collected his third nought of the series and then Steve Waugh, having continued Ben Hollioake's *education with the violent* disposal of some friendly half-volleys, lost his off stump to a ball of searing speed.

Waugh's 75 completed a symmetrical but curious Australia effort in which the top five all scored between 50 and *76. Malcolm, meanwhile, had* taken three for 14 in 20 balls and although the ninth wicket added 33, Headley returned to wrap things up with the total *just within acceptable bounds.*

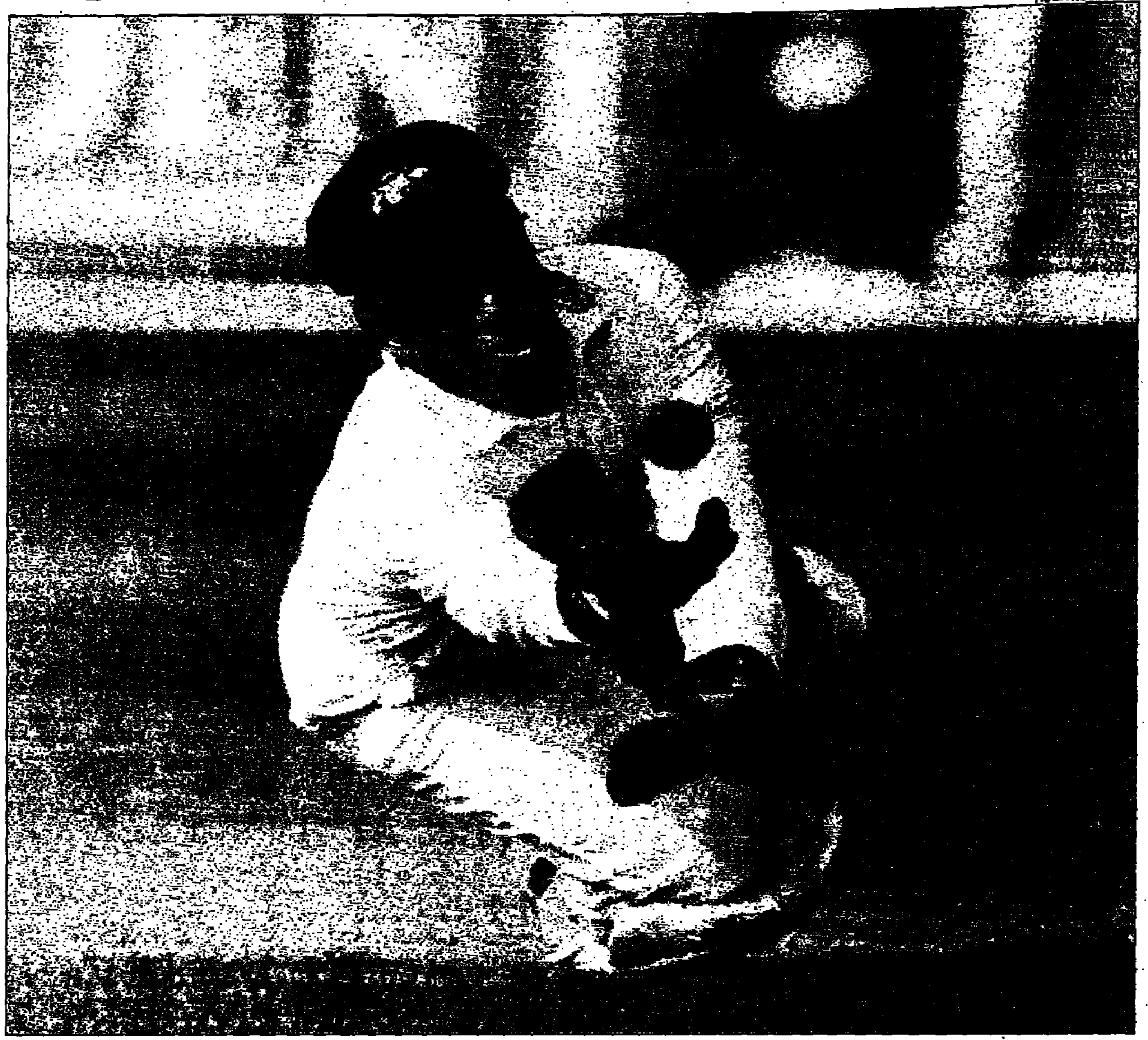
Only one of England's previous eight first-wicket stands *in this series had reached 50* and Atherton and Stewart did not instantly promise an improvement. Stewart looked jumpy and both men were *periodically beaten during* some fine new-ball bowling from McGrath.

The Australians were repelled, or at least their first wave, and when Stewart took 18 off an over from Jason Gillespie, the crowd began to *believe that they might be* witnessing something remarkable. Before tea, Stewart reached 50 from only 61 balls and the public address warning about heat exhaustion might equally have referred to overheated hope.

Atherton had scored at precisely one run per over when he pushed at Warne with his bat angled and gave Healy a regulation catch. The *one that dismissed Stewart,* for a vivid 87, was anything but routine: the ball turned, *flying at Healy from Stewart's* edged drive, and he could only parry it before spinning and plunging to get a glove under the ball as it fell behind him.

Nasser Hussain was bowled and when McGrath had Crawley gloving a rising ball down the leg side, England were suddenly, madly, in *peril of the follow-on.* The elder Hollioake betrayed no nerves and added 47 with *Thorpe, but this pair face a* monumental mission today.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Healy makes a magnificent recovery to hold the catch that ended the exhilarating innings of Stewart and began England's sharp decline

SCOREBOARD FROM TRENT BRIDGE

Australia won toss

AUSTRALIA: First Innings
M T G Elliott c Stewart b Headley . 69
(157min, 117balls, 10 fours)
*M A Taylor b Caddick 76
(218min, 155 balls, 12 fours)
G S Blewett c Stewart
b B C Hollioake 50
(144min, 115 balls, 7 fours)
M E Waugh lbw b Caddick 68
(174min, 124 balls, 8 fours)
S R Waugh b Malcolm 75
(169min, 102 balls, 13 fours)
R T Ponting b Headley 9
(15min, 15 balls, 1 four)
†I A Healy c A J Hollioake b Malcolm 16
(29min, 18 balls, 3 fours)
S K Warne c Thorpe b Malcolm 0
(11min, 5 balls)
P R Reiffel c Thorpe b Headley 26
(61min, 45 balls, 4 fours)
J N Gillespie not out 18
(52min, 34 balls, 2 fours)
G D McGrath b Headley 1
(10min, 6 balls)
Extras (b 4, lb 10, w 1, nb 4) 19
Total (121.5 overs, 524min) 427

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-117 (Taylor 47), 2-160 (Blewett 11), 3-225 (M E Waugh 24), 4-311 (S R Waugh 39), 5-325 (S R Waugh 43), 6-355 (S R Waugh 53), 7-363 (S R Waugh 61), 8-386 (Reiffel 9), 9-419 (Gillespie 16).

BOWLING: Malcolm 25-4-100-3 (W 1; 15 fours, 6-1-19-0, 2-0-9-0, 5-2-16-0, 2-0-11-0, 3-0-15-0, 7-1-30-3); Headley 30.5-7-87-4 (nb 3; 12 fours; 7-3-10-0, 7-0-28-1, 5-1-17-0, *3-0-17-0, 6-3-9-1,* 2.5-0-6-2); Caddick 30-4-102-2 (nb 1; *16 fours; 6-1-17-0, 11-3-28-1,* 2-0-9-0, 7-0-35-1, 4-0-13-0); B C Hollioake 10-1-57-1 (nb 1, 8 fours; 3-0-23-0, 5-1-17-1, 2-0-17-0) Croft 19-7-43-0 (7 fours; 5-4-1-0, 9-2-31-0, 2-0-5-0, 3-1-6-0); A J Hollioake 7-0-24-0 (2 fours, 2-0-7-0, 5-0-17-0)

SCORING NOTES: Second day: Lunch: 405-8 (116 overs, 498min; Reiffel 19, Gillespie 9).

ENGLAND: First Innings
*M A Atherton c Healy b Warne 27
(111min, 75 balls, 3 fours)
†A J Stewart c Healy b Warne 87
(136min, 107 balls, 14 fours)
J P Crawley c Healy b McGrath 18
(63min, 44 balls, 2 fours)
N Hussain b Warne 2
(27min, 22 balls)
G P Thorpe not out 30
(74min, 56 balls, 3 fours)
A J Hollioake not out 15
(63min, 42 balls, 3 fours)
Extras (*b 2, lb 3, nb 4*) 9
Total (4 wkts, 57 overs, 238min) . . 188

B C Hollioake, R D B Croft, D W Headley, A R Caddick and D E Malcolm to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-106 (Stewart 73), 2-129 (Crawley 9), 3-135 (Crawley 12), 4-141 (Thorpe 0).

BOWLING: McGrath 16-5-32-1 (5 fours; 7-2-12-0, 9-3-20-1); Reiffel 12-1-*53-0 (nb 2; 6 fours; 5-0-21-0, 5-1-22-0,* 2-0-10-0); Gillespie 7-1-45-0 (nb 1; 7 fours; 4-0-32-0, 3-1-13-0); Warne 22-7-53-3 (nb 1, 7 fours; one spell).

SCORING NOTES: Second day: Tea: 76-0 (19 overs, 83 min: Atherton 18, Stewart 52).

Umpires: C J Mitchley (South Africa) *and D R Shepherd. Third umpire:* A A Jones Match referee: C W Smith (West Indies)

SERIES DETAILS: First (Edgbaston): England won by nine wickets. Second (Lord's): match drawn. Third (Old Trafford): Australia won by 268 runs Fourth (Headingley): Australia won by an innings and 61 runs. To come: Sixth *(The Oval): August 21-25*

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

Stewart hints at what might have been

Michael Henderson looks back in anguish at some England causes for regret during this Ashes series

Like all unsuccessful or unlucky teams, England have a thousand apologies and a million regrets. *If only Alec Stewart had batted* as commandingly earlier this summer as he did in his late, glorious flowering *yesterday. If only the bowlers had* stuck to their task as gamely as they did here. If only the selectors had not been afflicted by pitchitis. If only Michael Atherton had won the occasional toss.

The if-only game will never run out of participants, particularly ones with coronets on their caps. It went on right to the end last night, as the Australians took a firm grip of a Test that was beginning, however briefly, to evade their customary measure of control. If *only Healy had responded less nimbly* to the edged drive that flew off his gloves, or if Hussain had taken a full stride towards meeting the ball from Warne that bowled him.

But England cannot in all honesty claim they have been diddled. Test matches are games of skill, not chance, and by *submitting four wickets last* night on a pitch that is not obviously any less good than the one on which *Australia batted, they surrendered the* opportunity of building a formidable total today, which was their only hope of putting Australia on the back foot.

Stewart's inability to impose himself *on the Australian bowling until yester*day afternoon, when he returned to the top of the order, has been as important *as any factor in the series. It cannot by* itself account for the fact that Australia *lead the series 2-1 but his failures in the* important position of No 3 have been of a piece with England's failure to *take the initiative when the game lay* in the balance.

Michael Atherton is not suited to the role of aggressor. Mark Butcher, brought into the side at the start of the series, *began his Test career with some* trepidation, and his subsequent demotion, though a shade unfortunate, *proved how right he was. Stewart was* deemed the man equipped with the range of stroke, and the steadiness of *nerve, to disrupt the bowlers, particu*larly McGrath, who offers so little to hit.

Only on that madcap Sunday night at Edgbaston, when Stewart and Atherton, *intoxicated by the heady* atmosphere, belted England to victory with a succession of lusty blows, has *Stewart really played with freedom.* The Australians have shackled him so successfully that, given his responsibilities behind the wicket, and an average against them of 25, it was thought *prudent to drop him down to No 6.*

He resisted and was instead reunited with the captain for the first time since the last Test against Pakistan last summer. After a day and a half in the field, which is not usually the best preparation for opening the innings in Test cricket, he responded in a way *that gave the crowd something worth* cheering.

He batted so well, playing the pull and the square drive with equal distinction, that a hundred, which *would have been his first against* Australia, appeared to be his. It was not to be and, following his departure, *an innings that seemed to be thor*oughly charted lost its drive and sense of purpose.

In the 26 overs they were together Stewart and Atherton offered another *reminder of the contrasting styles and* manners that have served England so well. They have both been through the *mill in their careers, but as cricketers* they appear to have been forged, not made, and are not about to stand aside meekly.

Until young Klingsor got to work after tea, to add three more wickets to his extraordinary roster, there was something muted about his Test.

It felt as though the Australians, who do not have to win it in order to retain the Ashes, were happy to settle for a draw. It lacked intensity. However, for England to sneak out of this game with a draw now would be very good news.

Hampshire declare brave intentions

BY BARNEY SPENDER

LORD'S (third day of four): Middlesex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 227 runs ahead of Hampshire

LORD MACLAURIN'S bold, new plan to stiffen the back*bone of county cricket* is all well and good, but there is one thing for which no legislation can account: entertainment. Some days are pure joy with *intrigue, art and whimsy all* woven into a bright and pleasing patchwork. Others are pretty grim; honest, sweaty days at the coalface.

Unfortunately, yesterday's play fell into the second category with the only real bright *spot, and smattering of laugh*ter, coming when the public announcer, wrong-footed by *John Stephenson's* tea-time declaration, announced not just the wrong bowler when play resumed but the wrong team in the field.

The crowd, who had watched the roller at work during the interval, certainly *enjoyed the slip and it may be* that those who come today will appreciate Stephenson's deci*sion* because, without it, this game would have petered out. As it is, both sides have a chance of winning.

Batting after Mark Ramp*rakash's mighty efforts over* the first two days was always going to have an element of "after the Lord Mayor's Show" about it but, on a pitch which appears to be getting lower and slower all the time, the Hampshire batsmen *showed some gumption in* sticking to the principle task of avoiding the follow-on.

Simon Renshaw, the nightwatchman, edged Jamie Hewitt's fourth ball to Mike Gatting at first slip to give Middlesex some hope in the *morning, but, two balls later,* Hewitt gave away the initiative by sending down a short ball, wide outside the off-stump. Not known to ignore *such deliveries, Robin Smith* promptly cut it for six over point to get off the mark.

Smith's batting has not quite lived up to expectations this year, with only one century and four fifties in the championship, and another *bright start was snuffed out* when Jacques Kallis, from the Nursery End, knocked his middle stump out.

Gavin Wright, however, played a solid anchor role, worth 62, before Owais Shah snapped up a good catch at *short-leg, and there was a* good, if uninspiring, partnership of exactly 100 between Matthew Keech, *whose 78 not* out against his old county came from 175 balls, and John Stephenson.

Stephenson, whose highest score in a difficult championship year is just 49, must have been sorely tempted to bat on. *He had just swept Kevin* Dutch, the off-spinner, for six into the grandstand, and was 48 *not* out. But, with the follow-on saved, he made the wise decision to declare 136 behind and give his batsmen a chance of chasing this *afternoon.*

Bowler and Alleyne let their bats do the talking

BY PAT GIBSON

TAUNTON (third day of four): Somerset, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 159 runs behind Gloucestershire

THERE *has been no love lost* between these West Country rivals in this match, but the captains, Peter Bowler and Mark Alleyne, will have *tobury the hatchet to produce* a result.

The pitch, at the centre of a bitter dispute between them before play began more than a day and a half late, flattened out into a benign batting surface under the scorching *sun yesterday and since* Alleyne won the right to play on it, the onus is on him to *make the first overtures.*

Whether Bowler will be in any mood to reciprocate remains to be seen. He was furious when Gloucestershire refused *to play on the dry,* worn strip used for Somerset's rain-ruined game against the *Australians because they did* not fancy facing Mushtaq Ahmed on it.

He *may have mellowed,* however, after reaching 73, his highest championship score of the season, as Somerset reached a challenging 191 for *three in reply to Gloucester*shire's first-innings total of 350 for eight declared.

Earlier, Alleyne had also led from the front when Gloucestershire, resuming uneasily on 119 for four, feasted on some wayward Somerset bowling to *pick up maximum batting* points and draw closer to Glamorgan, the championship leaders.

The dampness had gone from the pitch, but that was no excuse for the liberal supply of *long hops and half-volleys* which yielded 163 runs off 32 overs in the *morning session,* 102 of them in boundaries.

Alleyne could not quite *match Shaun Young, the pow*erful Australian, who demonstrated again why Gloucestershire *are agonising over* whether to invite him back next season in place of the hugely respected Courtney Walsh.

Young made 83 off 79 balls, clattering the feared Mushtaq over his head for six and *bludgeoning 15 fours before* getting himself out in the daftest possible way. Trescothick, bowling medium pace, served up a long hop down the leg-side. Young swatted at it, got an edge and was caught by the tumbling *Turner. It was Trescothick's* first championship wicket.

Alleyne: led from front

The fifth wicket had produced 140 in 27 overs and Alleyne, the most prolific all-*rounder in county cricket this* season, went on to 70 off 123 balls with 11 fours before Shine had *him* caught behind as he drove at a wide half-volley.

Russell then made sure that Gloucestershire collected full *points before Alleyne de*clared, but any thoughts that they might have had enough *runs to embarrass Somerset* were quickly dispelled. Smith gave them a glimmer of hope by claiming Holloway leg-before, but the Gloucestershire bowling was little better than Somerset's had been.

Ecclestone plundered 30 off *17 balls with six fours before* Young had him leg-before and then Bowler and Lathwell, *both finding their best form of* the season, put on 133 in 36 overs.

Bowler completed only his fourth half-century of the season and had moved on to 73 off 153 balls with 13 fours when he hung out his bat to Lewis and was caught at *second slip.* Lathwell passed his first 50 since the beginning of June off 82 balls, including seven fours, and had reached 64 by the close.

Worcestershire in need of solutions

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Worcestershire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 367 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

IF THEY are to win this run-filled match, Worcestershire must solve the puzzle not only of where to find a spinner to bowl on a helpful pitch, but how to prevent their seamers from running down the middle of it.

A sun-baked surface assisted Michael Davies and Rob Bailey, the Northamptonshire *slow bowlers*, after tea, as Worcestershire built on a first-innings lead through Reuben Spiring's 84 and a half-century from Gavin Haynes.

With Richard Illingworth *still to make his first* appearance of the summer and Vikram Solanki suffering from a sore finger, *they only* have Tom Moody, an occasional off-spinner, to call upon today.

Worcestershire had already received *early notice* of the impending dilemma as Northamptonshire arrogantly saved *the follow-on* and promptly declared, Russell Warren making an unbeaten 174 from *344 balls including 28 fours* and a six. He shared an unbroken sixth-wicket partnership of 114 in 20 overs with David Sales.

*During the unexpected on*slaught, which began with Northamptonshire in the relatively uncertain position of 230 for four, a third Worcestershire bowler, Philip Weston, the left-arm *medium-pacer,* was warned by umpire George Sharp about following through down the pitch. Alamgir Sheriyar and Gavin *Haynes had been admonished* the previous day by the other umpire, Barrie Leadbeater.

Whether this was gamesmanship to provide some *rough for Moody to exploit* while bowling on the final day or a genuine collective loss of rhythm by the Worcestershire attack was open to debate.

Moody's attempt to make a first-innings impact was firmly blocked, his 19 overs costing 67 *runs. When declaration* time comes, he will be far from generous, doubtless banishing the thought of scoring 551 and then losing to a side in the *lower reaches of the table.*

Four of Worcestershire's five wickets to fall in the *second innings fell to spin*ners, with Davies, 21, a slow left-armer, taking three for 75.

The Loughborough University student showed maturity *beyond his years by varying* his trajectory, flighting the ball and dismissing Moody when coming from around the wicket before ousting Haynes after switching to over the *wicket. He also had* Spiring stumped.

John Blain, 18, also on his championship debut, dismissed Tim Curtis for the *second* time in the game, leaving the former Worcestershire captain to reflect on a *lean aggregate of 79 runs* in the past nine innings of his farewell season.

Run record inspires Sri Lanka

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

AN upbeat Sri Lanka, fresh from scoring the highest total in Test cricket, start as favourites for the second game *of the series* against India at the Singalese Sports Club in Colombo today.

A psychologically battered India will face an uphill task against Sri Lanka, who demolished the Indian bowling earlier this week by amassing 952 for six on a lifeless *wicket in* the drawn first Test.

Sanath Jayasuriya, the opener, hit 340 and shared a world record partnership for *any wicket in Test cricket* of 576 with Roshan Mahanama who scored 225. India's misery was compounded by *sterling* knocks by Arjuna Ranatunga, the captain, and Aravinda de Silva, his deputy, as the Sri Lanka batsmen made the In*dians* toil for three full days in the field.

"We've had our ups and *downs in cricket, but I think* we have come back pretty well in the batting," said Ranatunga in *somewhat of an* understatement. "We are very competitive now, but we'll have to work hard at our bowling."

Unlike the R Premadasa Stadium, where the pitch proved to be a bowler's night*mare,* the Singalese Sports Club wicket is expected to give them greater assistance with its extra bounce and movement.

Sri Lanka have brought in the left-arm fast-medium bowler, Sajeeva de Silva.

CRICKET

Wood stands firm as Lancashire edge home

By Richard Hobson

BLACKPOOL (third day of four): Lancashire (24pts) beat Warwickshire (4pts) by three wickets

LATE on Thursday afternoon, with Warwickshire seemingly destined for an innings defeat, officials of the Blackpool club decided to grant free admission for what they expected would be a brief third day's play. Those folk who took advantage of the generous offer witnessed a climax they will not forget.

The finish spoke volumes for the attractions of championship cricket, and the individual contest between Nathan Wood, the young Lancashire opener who is attempting to make his way in the game, and Allan Donald gave the lie to those who complain of the lack of a competitive edge to the four-day game.

At one stage yesterday it was tempting to put the prospective turnaround on the same scale as that which took place at Headingley in 1981 as Warwickshire almost confounded the universal prediction of overwhelming defeat.

They were 241 for eight at the start of play, leading by 18 runs. This position, in itself, represented a sizeable recovery from 98 for six, but still gave little indication of what was to follow.

Perhaps Lancashire felt they had won the game simply by turning up, for they bowled poorly and for 55 mad minutes Giles and Frost greeted a sequence of half-volleys with uninhibited glee.

Frost finally offered a return catch to Shadford, to give the youngster his fifth wicket of the innings, and Giles, who scored 72 in 93 minutes, found Yates at backward point in the following over. Lancashire thus required 88 to win.

Although the pitch was exonerated from blame by the umpires, it continued to assist the seamers. Donald must have lost count of the number of times he beat Wood, whose father, Barry, watched an innings of remarkable tenacity from his deckchair placed next to the sightscreen.

Welch claimed his 50th wicket of the season by bowling Gallian and Fairbrother fell in similar fashion, driving expansively. A brilliant slip catch by Wagh accounted for Lloyd before Harvey was caught behind two balls after Wood, on three, had been missed by Wagh.

Watkinson lost his off stump to Welch and when Austin presented Frost, the wicketkeeper, with his second catch, Lancashire were in deepest peril at 45 for six. The partisan spectators were reduced to cheering every run, however fortuitously accrued.

Donald bowled unchanged for 13 overs before leaving the attack, but even that effort paled alongside the indefatigable feats of Welch.

He returned figures of five for 25 from 17 overs in a new-ball spell which enabled him to finish with the best match analysis by an opposition bowler on this ground — 11 for 140. Wood, via a pad, finally succumbed to a catch by Wagh in the slips having scored 26 in 37 overs, but there were to be no further mishaps.

Hegg relieved some of the tension when he drove Donald to the cover boundary and Yates struck Brown through the same vacant area twice in an over as Lancashire's lower order again saw them home.

Four wins in five games suggest that Lancashire are finishing strongly in the outside lane, but they are still 22 points behind Glamorgan, the leaders, and have played a game more.

Prichard, the Essex captain, shrugged off a hamstring injury to score a fine century at Canterbury yesterday

Prichard strikes defiant note

By Simon Wilde

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Essex, with five second-innings wickets in hand, need 92 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Kent

PAUL PRICHARD lived in Graham Gooch's shadow for a long time. Behind Nasser Hussain and Nick Knight, he was the best of the Essex batsmen to emerge during the Eighties, but still struggled to forge an identity. Promoted to the captaincy in 1995, with Gooch playing under him, the pressure only intensified at first.

But Gooch has gone now, and Prichard shows signs of blossoming. In Gooch's last match, a fortnight ago, he made 120, his best score for four years, and yesterday improved on that with a century of the highest class as Essex fought for their lives against Kent. Paying the price for some abject batting on Thursday evening, they were following on 356 in arrears well before lunch.

The situation called for the type of belligerent rearguard with which Gooch was all too familiar. Riding his luck early on against McCague, who lacked the fire of the previous day, Prichard rose to the task magnificently, especially as by the time he had scored 69 he had damaged a hamstring and called for a runner.

From that point on, he stayed rooted in the crease and dealt chiefly in fierce pulls and cuts, initially with such success that he moved from 76 to 100 in the course of four overs with six boundaries. His lack of mobility inconvenienced him most when facing Strang, who bowled a long spell from the Pavilion End, but he held on to the close, unbeaten after 280 minutes on 171, out of a total of 277 for five.

Without Prichard hobbling around on one leg, Essex would have been finished. Robinson, the man who has inherited Gooch's place in the team, helped post 73 for the first wicket but his departure led to another haemorrhageing of wickets that bodes ill for Prichard's hopes of turning Essex into a leading force in county cricket within three years.

The club has assembled a brigade of relative youngsters in whom they believe the future lies, but some are failing to live up to expectations. The only one who will look back with any pride on this match is Grayson, who played his second sensible knock and helped raise the score from 157 for four to 250 for five after Hodgson, Stuart Law and Irani had fallen in quick succession.

Law completed an anonymous match when he was bowled third ball by Fleming and Irani left the field with some reluctance after being adjudged caught in the slips off McCague. Irani made a point of rubbing his stomach by way of explanation to an unsympathetic crowd.

Earlier, Irani and Grayson, resuming Essex's first innings at a desperate 80 for five, batted brightly for well over an hour before a smart catch by Strang in the covers removed Grayson for 48. Two balls later Irani was gone for 50 as their last five wickets tumbled for three runs in the space of 21 balls, three of them to Thompson.

Essex's spirit had briefly left them: without Prichard's heroics, it might not have returned.

Records tumble to delight of anorak tendency

Simon Wilde on a week to remember for statisticians from Colombo to Colchester

It is hardly the time of year for anoraks, but this has been quite a week for the cricketing die-hard nevertheless. From the carry-on in Colombo, to the hullabaloo over the Hollioakes, to Peter Such's stupendous spell at Colchester, there have been no end of esoteric happenings and statistical curios.

The value of such events is largely a matter of perspective. While Such's Essex team-mates got themselves into a lather about the prospect of him bowling more balls in a championship innings than any man before him, Such himself found his emotions swinging from boredom at the game with Leicestershire slipping towards a dull draw to "moderate excitement" at the capture of a record he never imagined would be his.

Less than 48 hours later, the possibility that Sanath Jayasuriya might pass Brian Lara's Test record score or Sri Lanka eclipse England's record Test total of 903 prompted office workers to abandon work and soldiers fighting the Tamil rebels to gather round their television sets. "For a few minutes we almost forgot about the war," one said.

The man who was covering the match for the Internet was less enthusiastic. After recording the 1,626th and last ball of Sri Lanka's mammoth innings — a dot ball — he signed off wearily: "The ordeal is over; that is IT."

"The thing about records such as Sri Lanka's 952 is that they are almost always made in peculiar circumstances," Matthew Engel, who edits the cricket bible, *Wisden*, said. "They occur when matches have almost ceased to exist as contests, as was the case when Lara made his 501."

Engel has been working hard to keep up with the amendments to the almanack's records section. "This has been a good week for the 'anorak', what with the brothers Hollioake also bowling to the brothers Waugh in a Test match, but from what I have seen, most cricket followers are utterly depressed at the ECB's [England and Wales Cricket Board] blueprint. They view an interminable Sunday league and fewer championship matches as disastrous."

In fact, it has been an eventful year, for the game's "twitchers". "We have had a total of 777 in New Zealand, and a bowler taking 16 wickets in a match there," Engel said. "Glamorgan, who are top of the championship table, have been bowled out for 31 and then bowled out others for low totals themselves. Alistair Brown broke the *Sunday league record*.

"I do not possess an anorak, nor, I think, do most cricket followers. It is because cricket is a well documented game that such things have become a huge part of its appeal."

The message for the rest of the season is clear. Spectators must be vigilant at all times. But those at the St Lawrence Ground this week know that already, after reports of several sightings of Marlon Brando near Canterbury recently. To them it would be no surprise at all if he walked in off the Old Dover Road with *Wisden* in one hand and anorak in the other.

> 'These things are part of cricket's appeal'

Taylor survives Pierson's passion

By Jack Bailey

EASTBOURNE (third day of four; Leicestershire won toss): Sussex have scored 330 for six wickets declared.

TWO days lost to the weather, a damp pitch, which could only get better for batting, and Leicestershire's penchant for the run-chase, prompted their decision to take the field. But well though Adrian Pierson bowled, however responsive the pitch early on, Leicestershire lived to regret the absence of a second spinner.

Neil Taylor's third century of the season and his partnership of 143 with Keith Newell dispelled anxieties that Sussex would fall cheaply and there is all to play for today.

Taylor batted for five hours to reach his hundred. It arrived with his eleventh four. Inevitably, this came off the bowling of Adrian Pierson who had bowled as long as Taylor had batted and had carried the Leicestershire attack through a hot, sultry day.

There is nothing Pierson likes better than bowling — unless it is batting, but he has more opportunities with the ball. Yesterday, he was in clover. With a break of just one over, to change ends for six balls before reverting to his original beat, he wheeled away for 30 overs. From start of play until mid-afternoon his long, lean figure, crowned by a capped head, purveyed the off spinner's craft.

By lunch he had captured three Sussex batsmen for 53 runs from 19 overs. The ball turned, the odd one did the unexpected and before Taylor brought his craft to bear, Sussex were in a muddle. Rao was bowled, pushing forward; Pierce chasing hard, played one sweep too many, the ball lobbing to slip; Athey was undone by the arm ball.

Taylor remained a model of concentration and Newell, dropped on four, went on to hit nine fours. The pitch lost its bite.

Leicestershire were also handicapped, by a bedevilment of injuries. Whitaker was already out of the frame with a cracked toe. Soon, neither Mullally nor Johnson was able to sustain the attack, because of hamstring and ankle ligaments respectively.

In these circumstances, nine bowlers in all were tried, including Nixon, the wicketkeeper, and the debutant batsman, Darren Stevens, claimed the wicket of Paul Jarvis.

Yorkshire held back by Wasim

By Alastair Storie

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Yorkshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 85 runs behind Pakistan A

THE Yorkshire batsmen, seeing Pakistan A at 129 for six after an hour's play, could have been forgiven for expecting an early return to the crease. However, by 6.08pm, when they finally took strike, the Pakistanis had assumed control and, by contrast, a testing period had to be negotiated.

The early optimism was down exclusively to Hamilton who removed Jamshed, Qayyum and Azhar. Yorkshire's next success, however, came some 3½ hours later as the wicketkeeper, Qadir, and Wasim played to requisition, building a crucial, if at times frustrating, partnership of 178. Qadir stayed for a total of 250 balls in completing 61, but it was Wasim, 21, with 155, who provided the day's entertainment. Hutchison, by swinging one back at him, pocketed the three Test players in the touring party, all leg-before.

Overall, however, the Yorkshire seam attack lacked penetration and struggled on six-day-old footholds. With inexperience in the spin department and the lead creeping up, Byas was forced to contain more than he would have liked, allowing his opponents back into the game.

Durham delay the inevitable defeat

By Rupert Cox

THE OVAL (third day of four): Durham, with three second-innings wickets in hand, are 27 runs ahead of Surrey

IN VIEW of Durham's ignominious championship record in the capital, especially at the Oval, where they have lost their only two matches by an innings since their inception six years' ago, pundits could have been forgiven for anticipating a blank day today. It will not be, with Durham, exceeding their first innings total for the fourth consecutive game, taking play into the fourth day, but 24 points will go to Surrey nonetheless.

The world's premier off spinner, Saqlain Mushtaq, was originally expected to play club cricket in Durham's senior league for Horden Cricket Club and Durham probably wished he had. Stepping in to fill Surrey's vacant overseas berth, he undermined the visitors' first innings with five wickets for 17 in 14 overs. Resuming overnight at 120 for six, Durham fecklessly crumbled to 136 all out inside 45 minutes in 11 overs, leaving them 214 behind and following on. With Saqlain collecting three more victims in Durham's second attempt, he doubled his championship aggregate.

Durham are manifestly brittle on their travels, a fact exposed by three successive innings defeats away from home, and unnerved by the failings of imported batsmen. Only Jonathan Lewis has settled with confidence, while Mike Roseberry and Nick Speak languish in the second XI, suggesting that the transition from a prosperous county to a struggling outfit creates a precipitous mental barrier.

Thus, not for the first time this summer, it was Lewis, returning to the ground where he made an unbeaten 116 on his first-class debut, who dropped anchor at the head of the Durham order. Neat, compact and obdurate, he delayed the home team for three hours and, with John Morris, even the threat of Saqlain was quashed.

He played the ideal foil to the free-flowing Morris, who counter-attacked when confronted by the tiring Pakistani, initially forcing him round the wicket, then elegantly striking him for four boundaries in an over to coerce a bowling change. Nevertheless, Chris Lewis, the acting Surrey captain, fiddled his bowlers cannily and forced a mini-collapse.

Lewis edged to give Bicknell a deserved victim, while, in the next over, Rupesh Amin deceived Morris in the flight to obtain his maiden wicket. The cycle continued with David Boon and Martin Speight adding 91 in 26 overs, amid the occasional blot on Surrey's out-cricket, before the loss of both batsmen persuaded Surrey to allow free entry for spectators at the ground today.

Flintoff quick to prosper

By Ivo Tennant

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Zimbabwe Under-19, with four second innings wickets in hand, are 226 runs behind England Under-19

ZIMBABWE are having an awful struggle to compete with England in this, the first match of their under-19 NatWest series. Andrew Flintoff made a century before lunch yesterday, his 116 coming off 86 balls. When the declaration eventually came, his side's bowling, notably that of Ryan Sidebottom, was of commensurate standard.

One or two of the numerous coaches who are attached to this England side rate Flintoff even more highly than they do Ben Hollioake. He struck his 12 fours and seven sixes with immense power, going from 50 to 100 in just 29 balls. There were 78 fours and nine sixes in the entire England innings.

Peters, who had made 85 overnight, went to the first ball of the day, but by the time Flintoff had finished with a weak attack, there were runs for everybody. Batty hit 13 fours in an innings of 64 and Reed 11 in his 78. The declaration came when England were 344 ahead.

Poor Zimbabwe. They collapsed to 60 for five. Sidebottom again took wickets, three in all. Ferreira wsa held at gully off Franks and Marillier played across the line.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Tour match

Yorkshire v Pakistan A

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Yorkshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 85 runs behind Pakistan A

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 243 (D Byas 84, Azhar Mahmood 5 for 66)

Second Innings

M D Moxon not out	16
M P Vaughan not out	15
Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 4)	6
Total (no wkt)	37

BOWLING: Shoaib Akhtar 6-0-19-0, Abdul Razzak 4-1-14-0, Ali Husain Rizvi 2-1-2-0

PAKISTAN A: First Innings

Ali Naqvi c Chapman b Silverwood	5
Salim Elahi lbw b Hutchison	13
Mujahid Jamshed b Hamilton	23
Hasan Raza lbw b Hutchison	5
*Mohammad Wasim lbw b Hutchison	155
Rana Qayyum b Hamilton	16
Azhar Mahmood c Vaughan b Hamilton	8
†Javed Qadir c Hamilton b Silverwood	61
Abdul Razzak b Hamilton	22
Ali Husain Rizvi c Parker b Hutchison	15
Shoaib Akhtar not out	1
Extras (b 11, lb 2, w 4, nb 12)	29
Total	365

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-35, 3-45, 4-67, 5-117, 6-129, 7-307, 8-347, 9-353

BOWLING: Silverwood 27-8-73-2, Hamilton 26-8-95-4, Hutchison 23.2-5-64-4, Fisher 13-2-38-0, Vaughan 17-4-53-0, Morris 9-2-29-0

Umpires: G I Burgess and J W Lloyds

Britannic Assurance county championship

Kent v Essex

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Essex, with five second-innings wickets in hand, need 92 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Kent

KENT: First Innings 525 for 9 dec (M V Fleming 138, A P Wells 109, M A Ealham 52, P A Strang 55, G R Cowdrey 53)

ESSEX: First Innings

*P J Prichard b McCague	3
D D J Robinson lbw b McCague	20
T P Hodgson c Ward b Ealham	9
S G Law c Wells b McCague	6
R C Irani c Ward b Thompson	50
N F Williams c Thompson b McCague	10
A P Grayson c Strang b Thompson	43
D R Law c Marsh b Ealham	1
†R J Rollins c Marsh b Thompson	0
S J W Andrew c Marsh b Ealham	0
P M Such not out	2
Extras (b 4, lb 2, w 2, nb 4)	12
Total (45.3 overs)	156

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-39, 3-42, 4-59, 5-73, 6-153, 7-154, 8-154, 9-154

BOWLING: McCague 17-0-81-4, Thompson 9-0-29-3, Ealham 8.3-2-14-3, Strang 11-2-30-0

Second Innings

*P J Prichard not out	171
D D J Robinson c and b Thompson	23
T P Hodgson c Ward b Strang	15
S G Law b Fleming	1
R C Irani c Strang b McCague	9
A P Grayson lbw b Ealham	33
D R Law not out	4
Extras (b 2, lb 8, w 2, nb 6)	18
Total (5 wkts)	277

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-73, 2-116, 3-131, 4-157, 5-250

BOWLING: McCague 10-1-48-1, Ealham 17-4-47-1, Thompson 17-3-66-1, Strang 26-8-83-1, Fleming 10-6-25-1

Bonus points: Kent 8, Essex 2

Umpires: J C Balderstone and P Willey

Lancashire v Warwickshire

BLACKPOOL (third day of four): Lancashire (24pts) beat Warwickshire (4) by three wickets

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 139 (P J Martin 6 for 46, I D Austin 4 for 45)

Second Innings

D P Ostler b Shadford	13
M A Wagh b Austin	4
D L Hemp c Gallian b Shadford	35
A Singh b Shadford	0
T L Penney c Watkinson b Martin	12
*N M K Smith b Austin	24
D R Brown c Fairbrother b Martin	53
G Welch c Hegg b Shadford	36
A F Giles c Yates b Austin	72
†T Frost c and b Shadford	40
A A Donald not out	0
Extras (lb 7, w 2, nb 12)	21
Total	310

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-54, 3-54, 4-59, 5-93, 6-98, 7-179, 8-203, 9-310

BOWLING: Martin 26-7-110-2, Austin 23.2-5-78-3, Gallian 6-2-24-0, Shadford 11-1-80-5, Watkinson 3-0-11-0

LANCASHIRE: First Innings 362 (G D Lloyd 78, I D Austin 68, N H Fairbrother 60, G Welch 6 for 115)

Second Innings

J E R Gallian b Welch	2
N T Wood c Wagh b Brown	26
N H Fairbrother b Welch	4
G D Lloyd c Wagh b Welch	1
M E Harvey c Frost b Donald	9
*M Watkinson b Welch	6
I D Austin c Frost b Welch	1
†W K Hegg not out	16
G Yates not out	14
Extras (lb 4, w 6, nb 2)	12
Total (7 wkts)	91

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-13, 3-17, 4-28, 5-39, 6-45, 7-67

BOWLING: Donald 16-6-40-1, Welch 17-7-25-5, Brown 7.1-2-22-1

Umpires: H D Bird and J H Harris

Middlesex v Hampshire

LORD'S (third day of four): Middlesex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 227 runs ahead of Hampshire

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 442 for 8 dec (M R Ramprakash 190, O A Shah 77)

Second Innings

P N Weekes c White b Renshaw	1
J H Kallis not out	49
M W Gatting not out	37
Extras (b 4)	4
Total (1 wkt)	91

FALL OF WICKET: 1-5

BOWLING: Milburn 6-2-16-0, Renshaw 6-2-14-1, Stephenson 7-1-21-0, Udal 10-1-29-0, Keech 3-0-7-0

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

J S Laney c Pooley b Hewitt	23
M L Hayden lbw b Dutch	36
G W White c Shah b Dutch	62
S J Renshaw c Gatting b Hewitt	14
R A Smith b Kallis	27
M Keech not out	78
*J P Stephenson not out	48
Extras (lb 10, nb 8)	18
Total (5 wkts dec, 102 overs)	306

†A N Aymes, S D Udal, A D Mascarenhas and S M Milburn did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-69, 3-100, 4-148, 5-206

BOWLING: Fraser 15-2-38-0, Hewitt 17-2-70-2, Johnson 13-1-36-0, Kallis 12-3-22-1, Dutch 29-6-94-2, Weekes 16-3-36-0

Bonus points: Middlesex 6, Hampshire 5

Umpires: T E Jesty and J F Steele

Northamptonshire v Worcestershire

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Worcestershire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 367 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 551 (W P C Weston 205, D A Leatherdale 110, S J Rhodes 55, S A J Boswell 5 for 94)

Second Innings

T S Curtis c Sales b Blain	5
W P C Weston c Warren b Bailey	31
*T M Moody c Warren b Davies	26
K R Spiring st Ripley b Davies	84
G P Haynes c Warren b Davies	50
D A Leatherdale not out	20
V S Solanki not out	0
Extras (lb 1, nb 2)	3
Total (5 wkts)	219

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-56, 3-78, 4-179, 5-218

BOWLING: Boswell 5-0-16-0, Blain 6-3-13-1, Davies 32-10-75-3, Bailey 27-7-68-1, Curran 2-0-20-0, Fordham 1-0-1-0

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings

D J Roberts c Spiring b Haynes	40
R J Warren not out	174
A Fordham c Haynes b Leatherdale	57
S A J Boswell c Moody b Leatherdale	0
*P J Bailey c Lampitt b Leatherdale	14
K M Curran b Haynes	29
D J G Sales not out	48
Extras (b 4, lb 7, w 2, nb 28)	41
Total (5 wkts dec, 106 overs)	403

A L Penberthy, †D Ripley, M K Davies and J A R Blain did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-79, 2-198, 3-198, 4-232, 5-289

BOWLING: Newport 14-5-43-0, Sheriyar 16-1-77-0, Haynes 20-7-58-2, Lampitt 17-1-97-0, Moody 19-7-67-0, Leatherdale 15-5-29-3, Weston 3-0-21-0

Bonus points: Northamptonshire 6, Worcestershire 6

Umpires: B Leadbeater and G Sharp

Somerset v Gloucestershire

TAUNTON (third day of four): Somerset, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 159 runs behind Gloucestershire

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

A J Wright c Turner b Rose	30
M G N Windows lbw b Mushtaq	44
T H C Hancock c Turner b Rose	11
M A Lynch b Rose	8
S Young c Turner b Trescothick	83
*M W Alleyne c Turner b Shine	70
†R C Russell not out	37
R I Dawson lbw b Shine	14
M C J Ball c Jones b Rose	18
A M Smith not out	1
Extras (b 4, lb 2, w 4, nb 24)	34
Total (8 wkts dec, 89.3 overs)	350

J J Lewis did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-61, 2-91, 3-105, 4-105, 5-245, 6-282, 7-310, 8-342

BOWLING: Rose 22.3-8-55-4, Shine 15-3-79-2, Van Troost 16-2-69-0, Mushtaq Ahmed 36-5-98-1, Bowler 5-3-6-0, Jones 2-0-19-0, Trescothick 3-0-18-1

SOMERSET: First Innings

*P D Bowler c Lynch b Lewis	73
P C L Holloway lbw b Smith	11
S C Ecclestone lbw b Young	30
M N Lathwell not out	68
M E Trescothick not out	2
Extras (lb 3, nb 4)	7
Total (3 wkts, 52 overs)	191

P S Jones, †R J Turner, G D Rose, Mushtaq Ahmed, K J Shine and A P van Troost to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-54, 3-187

BOWLING: Smith 11-4-33-1, Lewis 12-3-50-1, Young 9-1-32-1, Alleyne 10-2-43-0, Ball 10-3-30-0

Bonus points: Somerset 3, Gloucestershire 5

Umpires: B Dudleston and A Clarkson

Surrey v Durham

THE OVAL (third day of four): Durham, with three second-innings wickets in hand, are 27 runs ahead of Surrey

SURREY: First Innings 250 for 9 dec (J D Ratcliffe 76, I J Ward 56, J Wood 4 for 73)

DURHAM: First Innings

J J B Lewis c Lewis b Benjamin	29
S Hutton lbw b M P Bicknell	4
J E Morris lbw b Benjamin	30
*D C Boon c Ward b Saqlain	10
†M P Speight c Brown b Saqlain	14
R M S Weston b Saqlain	21
M J Foster c Ward b Saqlain	0
M M Betts c Lewis b M P Bicknell	12
J Boiling c Ward b Saqlain	0
J Wood not out	0
S J E Brown c Brown b M P Bicknell	0
Extras (b 3, lb 7, nb 6)	16
Total (58 overs)	136

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-67, 3-70, 4-96, 5-109, 6-109, 7-130, 8-130, 9-132

BOWLING: M P Bicknell 14-5-37-3, Lewis 6-1-23-0, Amin 17-4-27-0, Benjamin 7-1-22-2, Saqlain Mushtaq 14-6-17-5

Second Innings

J J B Lewis c Batty b M P Bicknell	39
S Hutton c Brown b Saqlain	19
J E Morris b Amin	53
*D C Boon c Ward b Saqlain	34
†M P Speight lbw b Benjamin	51
R M S Weston c Butcher b Saqlain	18
M J Foster c Butcher b Amin	9
M M Betts not out	0
Extras (b 7, lb 5, nb 6)	18
Total (7 wkts)	241

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-116, 3-118, 4-209, 5-215, 6-239, 7-241

BOWLING: M P Bicknell 10-4-24-1, Benjamin 10-1-34-1, Lewis 6-2-17-0, Saqlain Mushtaq 37.1-12-94-3, Amin 30-10-49-2, Ratcliffe 2-0-11-0

Bonus points: Surrey 8, Durham 4

Umpires: V A Holder and R Palmer

Sussex v Leicestershire

EASTBOURNE (third day of four, Leicestershire won toss): Sussex have scored 330 for six wickets against Leicestershire

SUSSEX: First Innings

M T E Peirce c Johnson b Pierson	31
R K Rao b Pierson	10
N R Taylor not out	122
C W J Athey c Nixon b Pierson	7
K Newell c Johnson b Parsons	64
*†P Moores c Stevens b Parsons	5
P W Jarvis c Wells b Stevens	55
A A Khan not out	9
Extras (b 8, lb 7, w 8, nb 4)	27
Total (6 wkts, 117 overs)	330

J J Bates, A D Edwards and M A Robinson to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-63, 3-79, 4-222, 5-228, 6-317

BOWLING: Mullally 6-1-10-0, Ormond 9-2-38-0, Pierson 42-10-122-3, Parsons 24-8-43-2, Macmillan 11-1-41-0, Wells 12-4-32-0, Maddy 9-1-20-0, Stevens 2-1-5-1, Nixon 2-0-4-0

LEICESTERSHIRE: *V J Wells, D L Maddy, B F Smith, D I Stevens, N C Johnson, G I Macmillan, †P A Nixon, G J Parsons, J Ormond, A R K Pierson, A D Mullally

Bonus points: Sussex 3, Leicestershire 2

Umpires: M J Kitchen and N T Plews

NatWest Under-19 international match

England v Zimbabwe

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Zimbabwe Under-19, with four second-innings wickets in hand, are 226 runs behind England Under-19

ZIMBABWE UNDER-19: First Innings 208 (M A Vermuelen 50, R J Sidebottom 7 for 30)

Second Innings

N Ferreira c Cosker b Franks	5
L S Malloch-Brown lbw b Sidebottom	4
M A Vermuelen c Key b Sidebottom	0
D Marillier lbw b Tudor	4
A P Hoffman c Key b Cosker	70
*B Erasmus c Morris b Sidebottom	2
M L Nkala not out	10
†C Delport not out	0
Extras (b 8, lb 7, w 2, nb 6)	23
Total (6 wkts)	118

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-6, 3-13, 4-43, 5-60, 6-118

BOWLING: Tudor 6-3-14-1, Sidebottom 12-5-42-3, Franks 2-0-11-1, Cosker 11-5-19-1, Batty 6-2-17-0

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings

S D Peters c Ferreira b Steyn	85
R Key c Erasmus b Engelbrecht	44
G R Haywood c Erasmus b Steyn	16
*A Flintoff c Vermuelen b Steyn	116
Z C Morris c Erasmus b McCoun	13
G J Batty b Steyn	64
†C M W Read c Delport b Nkala	78
A J Tudor c Erasmus b McCoun	41
R J Franks not out	49
D A Cosker not out	27
Extras (b 6, lb 7, w 4, nb 2)	19
Total (8 wkts dec)	552

R J Sidebottom did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-94, 2-155, 3-162, 4-211, 5-220, 6-361, 7-429, 8-504

BOWLING: Nkala 25-2-140-1, Steyn 30-5-102-4, McCoun 13-1-93-2, Engelbrecht 12-1-69-1, Erasmus 2-0-12-0, Hoffman 9-0-53-0, Vermuelen 10-0-70-0

Umpires: J D Bond and K E Palmer

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of four: **Southampton:** Hampshire 333-6 dec (D A Kenway 112, W S Kendall 67) and second innings forfeit. Gloucestershire first innings forfeit and 335-3 (M J Church 107 not out, C M Gupte 100 not out, D R Hewson 65). Gloucestershire win by seven wickets. **Studley:** Warwickshire 273 (W G Khan 60, O T Parkin 6-61) and 581-7 dec (Khan 215, M D Edmond 134, M A Sheikh 76). Glamorgan 354 (M J Powell 107) and 238 (Powell 76). Warwickshire win by 262 runs. Final day of three: **Leicester:** Leicestershire 411-7 dec (D Stevens 181, A Habib 58, G P Swann 4-96) and 4-0. Northamptonshire 163 (R R Montgomerie 56) and 249 (Montgomerie 63, J Innes 57, D Williamson 4-25). Leicestershire win by ten wickets. **Barnt Green:** Sussex 228 and 329-5 dec (A Jones 152 not out, J D P Bowden 101). Worcestershire 334 (J R A Williams 143, S W K Ellis 54) and 91-4. Match drawn. **Second day of three: Seaton Carew:** Kent 274 (M J Walker 86, C D Walsh 53, C L Campbell 4-50) and 17-0. Durham 473-8 dec (G J Hughes 168, M A Roseberry 134, T N Wren 4-141). **Southgate.** Lancashire 292-5 dec (J J Haynes 98 not out, M J Chilton 70) and 108-5 (R A Fay 4-19). Middlesex 207 (S P Moffat 50, G Keedy 5-58). **Worksop College.** Nottinghamshire 434-5 (A A Metcalfe 182 not out, R W J Howitt 134). Somerset 409-7 (M Burns 94, L Sutton 59, J A D Kerr 52; J E Hindson 4-161). **Oxted:** Essex 239-8 dec (W Ritzema 62, M C Ilott 53; M Davis 5-80) and 37-4. Surrey 202-9 dec (J A Knott 88 not out).

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of two: **Bury St Edmunds:** Suffolk 204 and 181-2 (D W Randall 138 not out); Staffordshire 396-6 (S J Dean 131, R P Harvey 93). Match drawn. **Lakenham:** Norfolk 169 and 274-4 (C J Rogers 100 not out, S C Goldsmith 66, D R Thomas 65). Bedfordshire 166-5 and 278-6 (A R Roberts 142, Z A Sher 69 not out). Bedfordshire win by four wickets. **March:** Cambridgeshire 245-3 and 283-7 (J D R Benson 100 not out, J S G Norman 63, J P T Latham 61); Hertfordshire 223-5 and 206-7 (A D Griffin 136 not out). Match drawn.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v MANCHESTER UNITED

Tomorrow, 4.0

Oliver Holt

A few weeks ago, the return of Teddy Sheringham to White Hart Lane in the colours of Manchester United would have provided Tottenham fans with the unpalatable proof of their oft-stated contention that they have been betrayed by the lack of ambition of their chairman, Alan Sugar.

Now, though, things are different. United, with Sheringham in attack and a formidable midfield of Scholes, Keane, Butt and Giggs, are likely to prevail, but Spurs will at least have high-profile new signings of their own to study as their search for a place among the elite continues.

The signing, yesterday, of the diminutive Portuguese, José Dominguez, from Sporting Lisbon, may have come too late for him to take the field against the FA Carling Premiership champions, but Spurs will be able to field the two stars that they plundered from stricken Newcastle United, David Ginola and Les Ferdinand, their £6 million record signing.

With crucial players such as Darren Anderton and Chris Armstrong missing through injury, though, Tottenham are likely to find the going tough against a United side that looked ominously close to hitting their stride in their pre-season match against Internazionale at *Old Trafford and who had the* better of the game against Chel*sea in the FA Charity Shield at* Wembley.

Roy Keane will lead the team out as captain confident that United can keep going from strength to strength even without his predecessor, Eric Cantona. "The club is bigger than anybody," Keane said yesterday. "It just rolls on. If we have to go out and buy somebody, then we are in a position to do that."

Keane insists, too, that no one is in the mood to sit back on their laurels and admire the achievements of recent years. "The more we win," he says, "the hungrier we get. Whenever any other clubs win anything, like Chelsea with the FA Cup last season, we get jealous. We want to win every trophy we are involved in."

While Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, has admitted this week that he needs to produce a championship challenge this season if he is to safeguard his job, United can content themselves with wondering aloud which trophy they would most like to win.

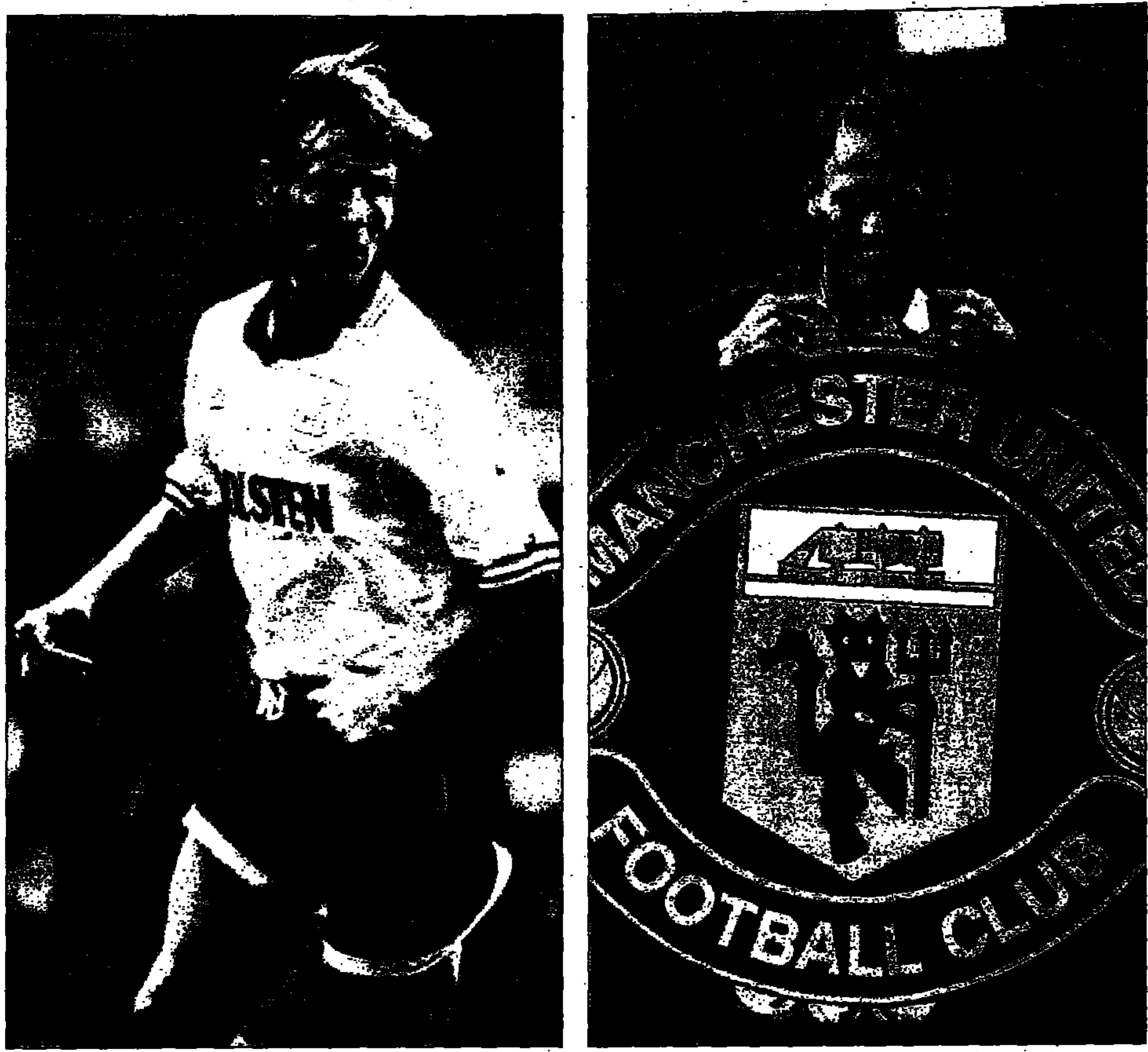
"I think the Premier League is on a par with the Champions' League," Keane said. "Speaking for the players we want to win the Premiership just as much."

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (3-5-2): I Walker — S Campbell, C Calderwood, J Scales — S Carr, A Nielsen, D Howells, D Ginola, A Sinton — L Ferdinand, S Iversen.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — D Irwin, R Johnsen, G Pallister, P Neville — P Scholes, R Keane, N Butt, R Giggs — A Cole, E Sheringham.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, 4.0pm.

■ PREDICTION:
United to win by two goals.



OK (fixture) computer: Teddy Sheringham, who swapped north London for the North West in June, is making a swift return

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

READY TEDDY GO

11 men who have played for Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United

Not an easy one this, big Ted is not exactly the latest in a long line. Midsummer congestion on the M6 may have something to do with it. How many deals floundered when the player decided to stop half-way and sign for Coventry instead?

1. Jack Hall
(Spurs 58 games; Man Utd 73)
2. James McNaught
(Spurs 112; Man Utd 162)
3. Garth Crooks
(Spurs 182; Man Utd 7)
4. Harry Erentz
(Spurs 151; Man Utd 9)
5. Alan Brazil
(Spurs 38; Man Utd 41)
6. Ernest Goldthorpe
(Spurs 17; Man Utd 30)
7. Jack Rowley
(Spurs 25; Man Utd 422)
8. Terry Gibson
(Spurs 26; Man Utd 27)
9. George Travers
(Spurs 6; Man Utd 21)
10. Chris McGrath
(Spurs 47; Man Utd 34)
11. Fred Hopkin
(Spurs 3; Man Utd 74)

Note: Goldthorpe, Hopkin, Travers and Rowley played wartime matches for Spurs. Special thanks to Cliff Butler and Andy Porter

Compiled by Richard Whitehead

BLACKBURN ROVERS v DERBY COUNTY

Today, 3.0

Peter Robinson

Today is *Roy* Hodgson's fiftieth *birthday* and it sees him embarking *on one* of the greater challenges of *his managerial* career, one that has, from Halm*stads to Internazionale, won plau*dits and prizes by the barrowload. *Only once has he slipped and that,* oddly, was in his only spell in England, at Bristol City. *Not his* fault — Bristol were flirting, Brighton-style, *with closure at the time* — but a smudge on his CV that he *will surely put right now.*

On his first day of life in the *Premiership, Hodgson will give* Filan his debut in goal — in the *absence of the injured Flowers* — and may do the same for Henchoz, *Valery and Dahlin. Berg is another* injured regular — a sore ankle — *and Sherwood is suspended.*

Jim Smith, Hodgson's opposite *number, may have persuaded* Sturridge to put his name to a new *four-year contract, but the young striker has yet to recover from a* cartilage operation in the sum*mer and will sit this one out. So* too may Asanovic, who has a *hamstring problem,* which would scupper Smith's plans to field the *team that lost 1-0 to Sampdoria* at the pristine Pride Park on Mon*day. The Italians,* Eranio *and* Baiano, will make their English *league debuts. Burton, signed on* Thursday, will be a substitute.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (possible: 4-4-2): J Filan — J Kenna, S Henchoz, C Hendry, P Valery — W McKinlay, L Bohinen, G Flitcroft, J Wilcox — K Gallacher, M Dahlin.

DERBY COUNTY (probable: 3-5-2): M Poom — J Laursen, C Dailly, I Stimac — S Eranio, R van der Laan, D Powell, J Hunt, C Powell — A Ward, F Baiano

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION:
Happy birthday, Blackburn win.

LEEDS UNITED v ARSENAL

Today, 3.0

Brian Glanville

You might say that George Graham had the last, or at least the latest, laugh. Run out of Highbury, he brought his dour Leeds United team to Arsenal last season, won, and had a good gloat.

You could scarcely blame him: not least because Leeds victories last season were as rare as snow in summer. This *summer,* Graham has *spent* a lot of money. His team could scarcely be more sterile than it was, but it remains to be seen if it is *any more* creative.

Certainly there will be energy in the midfield. The acquisition of Haaland from Nottingham Forest and Hopkin from Crystal Palace guarantee that, while there must be hopes that Bowyer will mature into the creator that Leeds need.

Up front, Jimmy Hasselbaink, something of a mystery, has arrived to partner Wallace, a player of pace, flair, but uncertain consistency. Robertson, however, is a guarantee of quality in defence; or in counter-attack.

Doubts whether Arsenal's costly new squad would bed down together were largely allayed last Monday, when they put six goals past Norwich City at Carrow Road. The revelation of the evening was Grimandi's scoring powers. The French centre back *had said that he liked* to move out from defence. This he did *formidably* at Norwich, scoring two goals.

Alas, he hurt his ankle and is likely to have a fitness test *just* before the game. *If he* fails, Arsenal have various *alternatives.* Petit, Grimandi's ex-Monaco colleague, could *drop back from midfield.* Marshall or Upson could be used. Garde, *another* Frenchman, stands in for Dixon, who *could be fit for Monday's* match at Highbury. Adams is *suspended for two games.*

Ian Wright claims that he is *a new man,* yet at Norwich he was involved in a spat with Scott, his marker. He and the elegant Dennis Bergkamp, however, are perhaps the deadliest pair of strikers in the Premiership and, with any sort of service, should continue to get many goals.

LEEDS UNITED (3-5-2): N Martyn — L Radebe, D Wetherall, A I Haaland — G Kelly, F Ribeiro, D Hopkin, L Bowyer, J Robertson — J F Hasselbaink, R Wallace.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — R Garde, S Bould, G Grimandi, M Upson — N Winterburn, R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars — I Wright, D Bergkamp.

■ *TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION:
Arsenal to win by two goals.

LEICESTER CITY v ASTON VILLA

Today, 3.0

Richard Hobson

There cannot be an adjective in the *Oxford English Dictionary* that has not been used to describe Stan Collymore at some stage of his eventful career, but a pound for every occasion on which "enigmatic" has applied would amount to a handsome signing-on fee.

That Collymore is a significant talent remained unquestionable even at the height of his problems at Liverpool; that Aston Villa represents the last chance he will have to fulfil his promise at a leading club is equally clear.

His partnership with Yorke could become the most prolific in the Premiership, and the prospect of Milosevic making up a three-man attack will genuinely frighten certain defences. Brian Little, the manager, will use this threat selectively.

Oakes stands in for Bosnich (hamstring) in goal and Ehiogu is also doubtful. Scimeca is likely to replace the suspended Staunton in defence. Grayson could make his Villa debut in midfield against his former club.

Leicester completed the £1.1 million signing of Graham Fenton from Blackburn Rovers yesterday morning. He is eligible this afternoon, but may not start against the side with whom he began his career.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Keller — S Prior, M Elliott, S Walsh — P Kaamark, M Izzet, G Parker, N Lennon, M Whitlow — S Claridge, E Heskey.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Oakes — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, R Scimeca — G Charles, I Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, A Wright — D Yorke, S Collymore.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION:
Collymore to score late winner for Villa.

COVENTRY CITY v CHELSEA

Today, 3.0

Keith Pike

First-day nerves, *ring-rustiness,* excessive heat, *newcomers settling in . . . Ruud Gullit will have* no shortage of *excuses should his team fail to* take three points at Highfield *Road today. None are likely to be* acceptable.

The simple fact is that if the Chelsea revolution, set in motion by Hoddle and accelerated by Gullit, is to culminate in a team capable of *winning* championships as well as cups, matches *such as these must* be won. Gullit does not suffer fools gladly and he has since spent lavishly but well. The towering presence of De Goey in goal strengthens one obvious area of weakness and much is expected of Poyet, a free transfer, in midfield, but three other summer signings — Babayaro, Lambourde and Flo — are likely to have to wait for their chance. Ditto Vialli, who will need to do more than give up coffee and cigarettes to upset the Hughes-Zola axis. Le Saux is a late arrival and may resume on the left at the club where his career began.

And Coventry? Dublin, Huckerby and Soltvedt promise goals, McAllister still oozes class, but much as Gordon Strachan's many admirers would wish otherwise, the annual battle for survival starts now.

COVENTRY CITY (possible: 3-5-2): S Ogrizovic — P Williams, R Shaw, D Burrows — J Salako, P Telfer, G McAllister, K Richardson, D Huckerby — D Dublin, T E Soltvedt

CHELSEA (possible: 4-4-2) E de Goey — F Sinclair, F Leboeuf, S Clarke, D Granville — D Petrescu, G Poyet, R di Matteo, D Wise — G Zola, M Hughes

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION:
Chelsea take the spoils, just.

NEWCASTLE UNITED v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Today, 3.0

Ivo Tennant

Kenny Dalglish continues to reshape Newcastle without recourse to the opinions of outsiders, be they accountants concerned with his board's financial dealings or sup*porters concerned about the sale* of Ferdinand. There will be no Shearer (injured), nor Gillespie (suspended) to face a Sheffield Wednesday team that won the corresponding fixture last season.

Given, Ketsbaia and Tomasson are all likely to make their debuts, as is Pearce and, possibly, Pistone, the Italian. They have not pussyfooted around: Lee, the Newcastle captain, who may or may not have had in mind the departed Ginola, said: "The over*seas players have worked just as* hard as those home grown."

Much will depend on how Asprilla copes in the absence of Shearer and Ferdinand. Newcastle have three home matches in succession in the first fortnight of the season, in which their stock market value will be watched as closely as Asprilla's goal tally. At least he is fit, which is more than can be said for Di Canio, who is unlikely to be chosen by Sheffield Wednesday.

At least he is no longer suffering from stress, as apparently he was at Celtic. Blondeau, the £1.8 million defender, should play.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (probable: 4-4-2): S Given — W Barton, P Albert, S Pearce, J Beresford — T Ketsbaia, D Batty, R Lee, A Pistone — F Asprilla, J Tomasson

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (probable: 4-4-2): K Pressman — P Blondeau, D Walker, D Stefanovic, I Nolan — G Whittingham, G Hyde, P Atherton, M Pembridge — B Carbone, R Humphreys

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION:
Newcastle to win.

EVERTON v CRYSTAL PALACE

Today, 3.0

Russell Kempson

Ray Wilkins only started his coaching job with Palace on Monday, but is already proving his worth by helping to interpret for Attilio Lombardo — he of the similarly smooth pate. Wilkins *learnt Italian during his playing* days in Serie A and has been keen *to clear up the confusion sur*rounding the delayed arrival of *the former Juventus striker.*

"Attilio did not want a man*sion, a butler or a maid before he* signed," Wilkins said. "That was *just hype from the media mach*ine. All he wants, actually, is an *apartment for him, his wife and* his son. It is very important that *we can get them settled into our* way of life as soon as possible. *He is a very professional person."*

Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, *is also impressed. "Consid*ering he has had only a couple of *training sessions and his mind* must still be a complete blur, he's done very well." Lombardo should make his debut at Goodison Park, pending international clearance, but Dougie Freedman, the Palace striker, is suspended. Everton, with Howard Kendall again back in the managerial breach, will be missing David Unsworth, the central defender, who completes a three-match ban carried over from last season.

EVERTON (probable: 4-4-2): N Southall — E Barrett, D Watson, S Bilic, T Phelan — J Oster, C Thomsen, G Speed, G Farrelly — D Ferguson, N Barmby

CRYSTAL PALACE (possible: 3-4-1-2): K Miller — D Tuttle, M Edworthy, G Davies — H Hreidarsson, A Roberts, C Veart, D Gordon — A Lombardo — N Shipperley, P Warhurst

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ *PREDICTION:*
Everton to edge grim game.

SOUTHAMPTON v BOLTON WANDERERS

Today, 3.0

Nick Szczepanik

Both teams will see this fixture as an opportunity to get off to a good start, but the visitors seem in better shape; David Jones, the new Southampton manager, has Dodd, Lundekvam, Neilson and *Le Tissier* out *injured* and three others doubtful.

The absence of Le Tissier from the early months of the season *after breaking an arm in a* preseason game, together with the *departure of Berkovic to West* Ham, will leave Southampton *short of creativity, although* Ostenstad, the forward, has shown *encouraging* pre-season form. Two of the club's new signings — *Paul Jones,* the goalkeeper, and Lee Todd, the left *back, both signed from Stockport* County, the manager's former club — *will start.* Stig Johansen, signed this week, may partner Ostenstad in an all-Norwegian attack at some stage.

Bolton will give debuts at full back to two summer acquisitions, Neil Cox and Robbie Elliott, but otherwise Colin Todd fields the team that strolled the Nationwide League first division last season, scoring 100 goals in the process — 40 away from home. Pollock, the midfield player, spoke this week of the team's optimism of a good result at The Dell, but Ostenstad in full flight takes some stopping.

SOUTHAMPTON (probable: 4-4-2): P Jones — U van Gobbel, K Monkou, R Dryden, L Todd — R Slater, N Maddison, J Magilton, S Charlton — M Evans, E Ostenstad.

BOLTON WANDERERS (probable: 4-4-2): K Branagan — N Cox, G Bergsson, G Taggart, R Elliott — J Pollock, P Frandsen, A Thompson, S Sellars — N Blake, J McGinlay.

■ TELEVISION: *Today: Match of the Day:* goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION:
Goals and points shared.

BARNSLEY v WEST HAM UNITED

Today, 3.0

Mark Hodkinson

The turnstiles open at 1.30pm but the streets around Oakwell will come alive a good deal earlier. A carnival mood has prevailed all summer on Costa del Barnsley and it will reach a climax today. Toby Tyke, the club's mascot, will perform his new line-dancing routine and a five-piece band will perform in the East stand. Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, has been eclectic in his team-building, signing players in the summer from Macedonia, South Africa, Slovenia and Germany. Debuts may await Messrs Tinkler and Krizan.

West Ham have remained unbeaten in pre-season, but the ever-restless Harry Redknapp, their manager, is still threatening to bring in "reinforcements". In the meantime, he has a full squad of fit players, apart from long-term casualties, Dicks and Hall. Before the game, West Ham will present Barnsley with an engraved piece of glassware to mark their debut at football's top table.

Typically, there is an historical footnote. West Ham's first away game in the Football League was at Oakwell and they were trounced 7-0. Barnsley might be awash with dreams, but even dreams have a limit; a slender win would suffice today.

BARNSLEY (possible: 3-4-1-2): D Watson — A Moses, M Appleby, A de Zeeuw — N Eaden, N Redfearn, E Tinkler, A Krizan — C Marcelle, P Wilkinson, J Hendrie.

WEST HAM UNITED (possible: 4-3-1-2): L Miklosko — D Williamson, S Potts, R Ferdinand, D Terrier — J Moncur, S Lomas, S Lazaridis — E Berkovic — J Hartson, P Kitson

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.

■ PREDICTION:
Barnsley to win by two goals.

WIMBLEDON v LIVERPOOL

Today, 3.0

Oliver Holt

At the ground where they finally surrendered in the fight for the championship last season, Liverpool begin a new quest for the Premiership title this afternoon bolstered by a host of big-money summer signings that have made them second favourites behind Manchester United.

The return of Oyvind Leonhardsen, Roy Evans's first big capture of the summer, to his former club has been ruled out by a hamstring injury, but Liverpool will give debuts to Paul Ince and Karlheinz Riedle, whose last competitive game was the European Cup final against Juventus in Munich in May. Michael Owen, the teenager who grabbed Liverpool's only goal at Selhurst Park at the end of last season, will replace the injured Robbie Fowler alongside Riedle as Wimbledon and Joe Kinnear try to perform another low-budget miracle and hold their own again in the Premiership.

Liverpool should be too strong for their hosts, but Wimbledon are likely to give a debut to their only new signing of the summer, Ceri Hughes. In attack, an injury to Efan Ekoku means that Dean Holdsworth will get an early chance to stake a claim for a place alongside Marcus Gayle.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, D Blackwell, C Perry, A Kimble — N Ardley, R Earle, V Jones, C Hughes — D Holdsworth, M Gayle.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — M Wright, N Ruddock, P Babb — R Jones, M Thomas, P Ince, S McManaman, S I Bjornebye — M Owen, K Riedle.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.

■ PREDICTION:
Liverpool to *win by two goals.*

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Spice Boys given the lie by pre-season schedule that leaves no time for enjoying the high life

Role models who are thriving on hard work and little play

McMANAMAN'S WORLD

We might have just had six weeks off but that has not stopped a lot of rubbish being talked about the so-called Spice Boys, a group of Liverpool players who, if you believe what you read, are more interested in the catwalk and the high life than the football pitch. Naturally, I was included in this group.

It's nonsense, of course.

The excuse for digging that old bone up this time was the fact that the gaffer, Roy Evans, called us together pre-season and went over the rules about missing games and being late.

These rules have always been in force. Every year at the start of the season he goes over them with us. This was nothing special and the same thing goes on at most clubs.

The gaffer was very good about it and he tried to dismiss the whole business last week. He took the trouble to tell us that he thought we were one of the hardest-working groups of lads in the country. But no doubt we will hear this one or something like it again in the course of the season.

The fact is that we are that busy that we rarely go out together and we don't have that much time for things apart from football. Jamie Redknapp and David James have done some modelling, but that was two years ago for goodness sake and it had absolutely no bearing on the way they played last season. Jamie gets more than his share of criticism because he happens to go out with a woman who also happens to have a high-profile job. It's completely irrelevant.

These days we rarely get to go out as a group, anyway. I know that the old Liverpool players used to have regular club days out but the last time the whole of this team went out together was Christmas, I think. Several of us might get together for a game of golf but really we just can't do it nowadays. We get on well enough without having to do everything together.

MAKING HIS MARK

We start the season among the favourites for the Premiership. That's not unusual but I can see good reasons for optimism this year. People have said that Paul Ince, who joined us in the summer from Internazionale, will be the final piece in the jigsaw.

That puts unfair pressure on Paul. If we win the league it won't be just because of Paul. If we lose, it won't be just because of him either.

But he is going to make a difference. It's been suggested that we need a hard man but he is much more than that: an excellent all-round player who will improve the squad not just because he is aggressive, but because he is skilful, too.

And he is bringing new ideas to the club, after two years playing in Italy. I've noticed he has his own views on training and eating and so on and he is trying to bring some of the good points to our set-up. I've noticed him talking to the gaffer about the way things were done in Italy.

I think Karlheinz Riedle, who joined us from Borussia Dortmund last week, will do exactly the same. Football is changing. Foreigners and players returning from foreign clubs are bringing in new ideas throughout the Premiership.

Glenn Hoddle began to do it at Chelsea and now Ruud Gullit is picking up where he left off. Arsene Wenger is changing things at Arsenal. Everyone is learning.

SOUND EXPERIENCE

Among those who will learn is Michael Owen. He is 17 and he is going to be a very good player. The arrival of Karlheinz means he will not play as often as he might have done but I don't think that is a cause for concern.

I don't think the gaffer wants to play Michael in 50 games a season. He is too young to play day in, day out but there are bound to be opportunities for him. And it must help Michael's development to be around a player such as Karlheinz, whose experience is probably second to none at the club.

ON THE MOVE

So Chelsea have pulled off one last close-season surprise by signing Graeme Le Saux. A very good deal for them. And it came in a deal conducted by mobile phone in the middle of the night as the player drove south. It just goes to show *the nature of the player's life.* Everything can change at any moment. As long as people can talk to each other, something can be thrashed out and you can be on your way. It's a 24-hour job.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

So here we go. We drove down yesterday for our match with Wimbledon at Selhurst Park this afternoon. If we are successful it should be the first of 65 or so matches for the club this season.

The more successful we are the more we will have to play. We all hope for a long haul and, at the end perhaps for some of us, the biggest challenge of our careers, the World Cup in France. It should be exhausting and rewarding. I can't wait to start.

STEVE McMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Final tables and statistics for last season

	Played	Points	Goal diff	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Form last 10 matches	Current streak
1. MANCHESTER UTD	38	75	+32	12	5	2	38	17	9	7	3	38	27	w5-d3-l2	w1
2. NEWCASTLE UTD	38	68	+33	13	3	3	54	20	6	8	5	19	20	w5-d5-l0	w1
3. ARSENAL	38	68	+30	10	5	4	36	18	9	6	4	26	14	w6-d2-l2	w1
4. LIVERPOOL	38	68	+25	10	6	3	38	19	9	5	5	24	18	w4-d3-l3	d1
5. ASTON VILLA	38	61	+13	11	5	3	27	13	6	5	8	20	21	w4-d3-l3	w1
6. CHELSEA	38	59	+3	9	8	2	33	22	7	3	9	25	33	w5-d1-l4	w4
7. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	38	57	-1	8	10	1	25	16	6	5	8	25	35	w3-d3-l4	d1
8. WIMBLEDON	38	56	+3	9	6	4	28	21	6	5	8	21	25	w3-d3-l4	w2
9. LEICESTER CITY	38	47	-8	7	5	7	22	26	5	6	8	24	28	w2-d4-l4	w2
10. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	38	46	-7	8	4	7	19	17	5	3	11	25	34	w3-d2-l5	l2
11. LEEDS UTD	38	46	-10	7	7	5	15	13	4	6	9	13	25	w1-d7-l2	d4
12. DERBY COUNTY	38	46	-13	8	6	5	25	22	3	7	9	20	36	w4-d2-l4	l1
13. BLACKBURN ROVERS	38	42	-1	8	4	7	28	23	1	11	7	14	20	w2-d3-l5	l1
14. WEST HAM UTD	38	42	-9	7	6	6	27	25	3	6	10	12	23	w3-d5-l2	l1
15. EVERTON	38	42	-13	7	4	8	24	22	3	8	8	20	35	w2-d3-l5	l2
16. SOUTHAMPTON	38	41	-6	6	7	6	32	24	4	4	11	18	32	w4-d3-l3	l1
17. COVENTRY CITY	38	41	-16	4	8	7	19	23	5	6	8	19	31	w3-d4-l3	w1
18. SUNDERLAND	38	40	-18	7	6	6	20	18	3	4	12	15	35	w3-d2-l5	l1
19. MIDDLESBROUGH	38	39	-9	8	5	6	34	25	2	7	10	17	35	w3-d5-l2	d3
20. NOTTINGHAM FOREST	38	34	-28	3	9	7	15	27	3	7	9	16	32	w0-d7-l3	l1

ATTACK

	Goals scored	Avge
1. Manchester Utd	76	2.00
2. Newcastle	73	1.92
3. Arsenal	62	1.63
=. Liverpool	62	1.63
5. Chelsea	58	1.53
6. Middlesbrough	51	1.34
7. Sheffield Wed	50	1.32
=. Southampton	50	1.32
9. Wimbledon	49	1.29
10. Aston Villa	47	1.24
11. Leicester	46	1.21
12. Derby	45	1.18
13. Everton	44	1.16
=. Tottenham	44	1.16
15. Blackburn	42	1.11
16. West Ham	39	1.02
17. Coventry	38	1.00
18. Sunderland	35	0.92
19. Nottm Forest	31	0.82
20. Leeds Utd	28	0.74

TOP SCORERS

(from each team)	Goals
1. Newcastle: Shearer	25
2. Arsenal: Wright	23
3. Liverpool: Fowler	18
=. Man Utd: Solskjaer	18
5. Aston Villa: Yorke	17
6. Middlesbro: Ravanelli	16
7. Coventry: Dublin	14
8. Southampton: Le Tissier	13
9. Leicester: Claridge	12
10. Blackburn: Sutton	11
=. Derby: Sturridge	11
=. Wimbledon: Ekoku	11
13. Everton: Ferguson	10
14. Sheff Wed: Booth	10
15. Chelsea: Vialli	9
16. West Ham: Kitson	8
17. Tottenham: Sheringham	7
18. N For: Campbell/Haaland	6
19. Leeds: Deane/Sharpe	5
20. Sunderland: Russell/Stewart	4

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. Arsenal	83	5
2. Leeds Utd	85	1
3. Chelsea	79	2
4. Middlesbrough	77	3
5. West Ham	69	2
6. Southampton	66	3
7. Nottm Forest	67	0
8. Derby	63	2
9. Blackburn	64	1
=. Tottenham	64	1
11. Everton	61	2
12. Newcastle	56	2
13. Manchester Utd	57	1
14. Sunderland	53	4
15. Aston Villa	53	2
16. Coventry	49	5
17. Leicester	51	1
18. Sheffield Wed	49	2
19. Liverpool	45	1
20. Wimbledon	39	1

HOME

Attendance	Average	% full
1. Manchester Utd	55,080	99
2. Liverpool	39,776	97
3. Arsenal	37,821	98
4. Newcastle	36,466	99
5. Everton	36,188	90
6. Aston Villa	36,027	92
7. Leeds Utd	32,117	80
8. Tottenham	31,067	94
9. Middlesbrough	29,871	98
10. Chelsea	27,616	87
11. Sheffield Wed	25,713	65
12. Blackburn	24,947	80
13. Nottm Forest	24,640	81
14. West Ham	23,242	89
15. Sunderland	20,974	93
16. Leicester	20,183	90
17. Coventry	19,608	83
18. Derby	17,888	99
19. Wimbledon	15,138	58
20. Southampton	15,104	99

REFEREES

Cards issued	Yellow	Red	Pld
1. G Barber	83	1	21
2. P Danson	76	2	19
3. M Reed	96	4	24
4. G Willard	68	1	18
5. M Bodenham	81	2	23
6. G Poll	76	3	22
7. M Riley	68	5	20
8. S Dunn	74	2	23
9. P Jones	66	3	20
10. G Ashby	46	3	14
11. J Winter	61	2	19
12. D Elleray	63	4	20
13. S Lodge	59	3	21
14. P Alcock	50	2	21
15. A Wilkie	53	1	23
16. P Durkin	50	3	23
17. K Burge	45	0	20
18. R Dilkes	46	1	19½
19. D Gallagher	19	0	9
20. G Hegley	6	0	½

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Avge
1. Arsenal	32	0.84
2. Aston Villa	34	0.89
3. Liverpool	37	0.97
4. Leeds Utd	38	1.00
5. Newcastle	40	1.05
6. Blackburn	43	1.13
7. Manchester Utd	44	1.16
8. Wimbledon	46	1.21
9. West Ham	48	1.26
10. Tottenham	51	1.34
=. Sheffield Wed	51	1.34
12. Sunderland	53	1.39
13. Chelsea	54	1.42
=. Leicester	54	1.42
15. Coventry	55	1.45
16. Southampton	56	1.47
17. Everton	57	1.50
18. Derby	58	1.53
19. Nottm Forest	59	1.55
20. Middlesbrough	60	1.58

SCORING TRENDS

Goals per half	1st	2nd
Arsenal	25	37
Aston Villa	18	29
Blackburn	22	20
Chelsea	30	28
Coventry	16	22
Derby	17	28
Everton	29	15
Leeds Utd	13	15
Leicester	20	26
Liverpool	29	33
Manchester Utd	31	45
Middlesbrough	22	29
Newcastle	34	39
Nottm Forest	17	14
Sheffield Wed	19	31
Southampton	22	28
Sunderland	15	20
Tottenham	24	20
West Ham	16	23
Wimbledon	22	27

OFFENDERS

(from each team)	Cards — yellow/red
1. Newcastle: Batty	11/1
=. West Ham: Hartson	11/1
3. Southmptn: Van Gobbel	10/1
4. Arsenal: Vieira	11/0
=. Derby: Stimac	11/0
=. Tottenham: Edinburgh	11/0
7. Blackburn: McKinlay	10/0
=. Middlesbrough: Mustoe	10/0
9. Coventry: Whelan	8/1
=. Leeds Utd: Palmer	8/1
11. Everton: Unsworth	7/1
12. Aston Villa: Townsend	8/0
=. Leicester: Heskey	8/0
=. Nottm Forest: Pearce	8/0
15. Chelsea: Leboeuf	6/1
=. Man Utd: Keane	6/1
=. Wimbledon: Jones	6/1
18. Sheff Wed: Pembridge	7/0
19. Sunderland: Ord	4/2
20. Liverpool: Wright	6/0

AWAY

Attendance	Average
1. Liverpool	30,663
2. Newcastle	30,342
3. Manchester Utd	30,202
4. Chelsea	29,622
5. Middlesbrough	29,330
6. Arsenal	29,000
7. Tottenham	28,970
8. West Ham	28,551
9. Sunderland	28,511
10. Derby	28,287
11. Leeds Utd	28,180
12. Everton	28,076
13. Coventry	27,862
14. Southampton	27,814
15. Aston Villa	27,769
16. Wimbledon	27,783
17. Leicester	27,422
18. Nottm Forest	27,376
19. Sheffield Wed	27,061
20. Blackburn	26,600

INTERNET

Official site	Web address
Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	—
Barnsley	—
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www boltonwfc.co.uk
Chelsea	www.chelseafc.co.uk
Coventry	www.ccfc.co uk
C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
Derby	—
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nufc
Shelf Wed	—
Southampton	www soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

WEEKEND FIXTURES

TODAY

Kick-off 3.0 * denotes all-ticket match
Pools coupon numbers in brackets
In Premiership fixtures † denotes sold out, otherwise seats still available

(1) † Barnsley v West Ham
(2) Blackburn v Derby
(3) Coventry v Chelsea
(4) Everton v Crystal Palace
(5) † Leeds v Arsenal
(6) † Leicester v Aston Villa
(7) † Newcastle v Sheffield Wed
(8) † Southampton v Bolton
(9) †* Wimbledon v Liverpool

First division

(10) Birmingham v Stoke
(11) Bradford v Stockport
(12) Bury v Reading
(13) Manchester City v Portsmouth
(14) Middlesbrough v Charlton
(15) Norwich v Wolverhampton
(16) Oxford Utd v Huddersfield
(17) Port Vale v Nottm Forest
(18) QPR v Ipswich
(19) Swindon v Crewe
(20) West Bromwich v Tranmere

Second division

(21) Blackpool v Luton
(22) Bristol Rovers v Plymouth
(23) Chesterfield v Walsall
(24) Fulham v Wrexham
(25) Gillingham v Preston
(26) Grimsby v Bristol City
(27) Millwall v Brentford
(28) Northampton v Bournemouth
(29) Oldham v York
(30) Southend v Carlisle
(31) Watford v Burnley
(32) Wigan v Wycombe

Third division

(33) Chester v Lincoln
(34) Colchester v Darlington
(35) Exeter v Hartlepool
(36) Leyton Orient v Cardiff
(37) Macclesfield v Torquay
(38) Mansfield v Hull
(39) Notts County v Rochdale
(40) Peterborough v Scunthorpe
(41) Rotherham v Barnet
(42) Scarborough v Cambridge Utd
(43) Shrewsbury v Doncaster
(44) Swansea v Brighton

Second round

(—) Berwick v Celtic
(at Tynecastle Park)
(—) Dumbarton v Aberdeen
(—) Dundee v East Stirling
(45) Dunfermline v Ayr
(46) East Fife v Kilmarnock
(47) Greenock Morton v Airdrie
(—) Hibernian v Alloa
(48) Livingston v Hearts
(—) Motherwell v Inverness CT
(49) Partick v Stirling
(—) Queen of South v Dundee Utd
(—) Raith v Forfar
(—) Ross County v Falkirk
(—) St Johnstone v Clyde
(—) St Mirren v Clydebank

Scottish League Cup
First round

(—) Stranraer v Arbroath

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership

† Tottenham v Manchester Utd (4 0)

Nationwide League
First division

Sheffield Utd v Sunderland (1 0)

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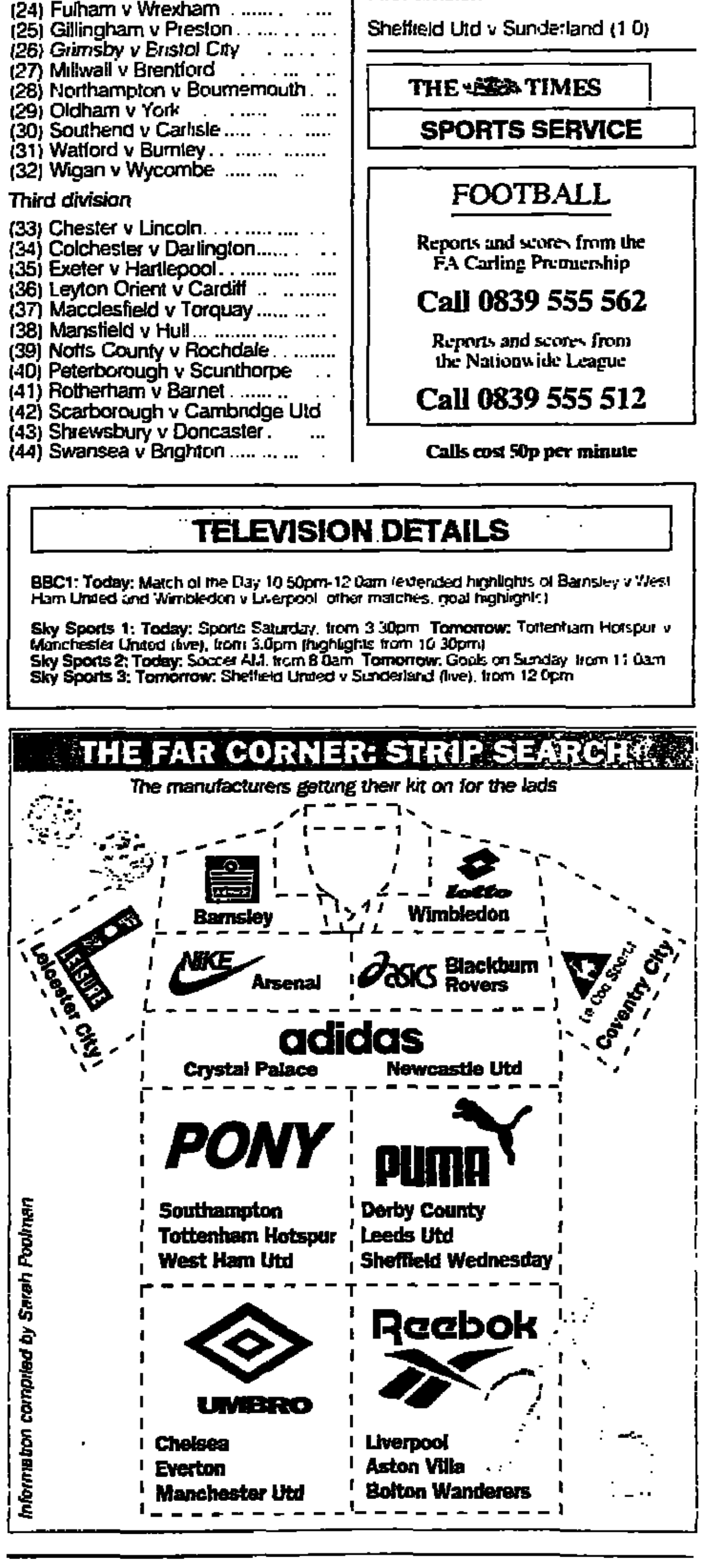
TELEVISION DETAILS

BBC1: Today: Match of the Day 10 50pm-12 0am (extended highlights of Barnsley v West Ham United and Wimbledon v Liverpool other matches, goal highlights)

Sky Sports 1: Today: Sports Saturday, from 3 30pm **Tomorrow:** Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester United (live), from 3.0pm (highlights from 10 30pm)
Sky Sports 2: Today: Soccer AM, from 8 0am **Tomorrow:** Goals on Sunday from 11 0am
Sky Sports 3: Tomorrow: Sheffield United v Sunderland (live), from 12 0pm

THE FAR CORNER: STRIP SEARCH

The manufacturers getting their kit on for the lads



Information compiled by Sarah Poolman

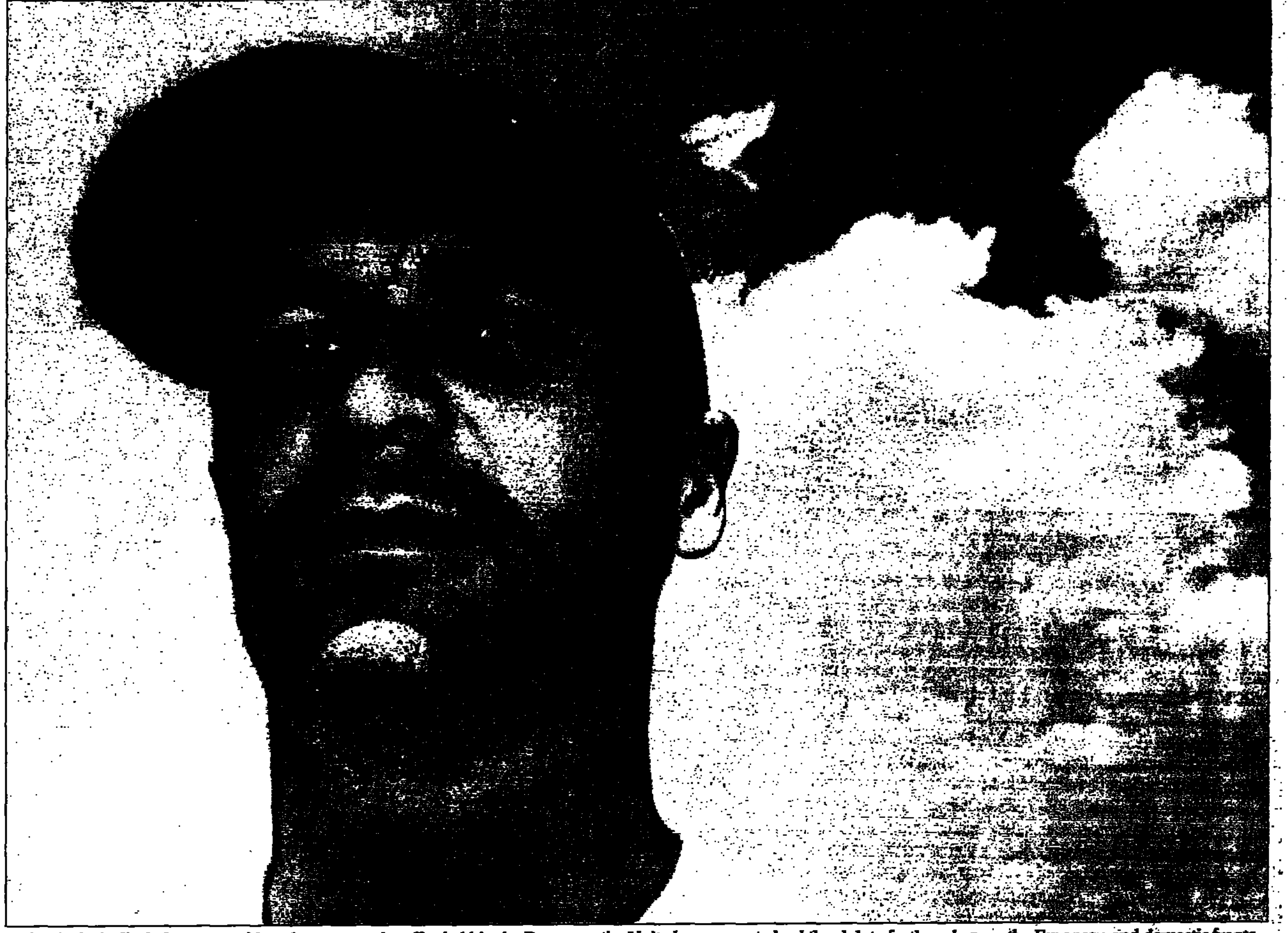
Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

Keane celebrates coming of age

The new Manchester United captain talks about how he plans to shed his bad-boy image for the mantle of responsibility at Old Trafford

OLIVER HOLT

MARC ASPLAND



The sky is the limit: Keane considers the opportunity afforded him by Ferguson, the United manager, to lead the club to further glory on the European and domestic fronts

The taxis had started arriving an hour earlier. They spilt out their cargoes of refugees from the school holidays in twos and threes outside the gates and wheeled around to head back into the city centre. By midday, the crowd in the car park at The Cliff, the Manchester United training ground, had swelled to about 200.

At the edge of the throng, a woman whose jet-black roots were invading her peroxide blonde hair, kicked a football to and fro with her small son. Everyone else, anaesthetised by the rays of the noon-day sun, clutched their autograph books and gazed at a small knot of players who were talking quietly by their cars.

There was a languor about the young men. Training was over and the heat was slowing them down. David Beckham had eased himself into his new Porsche and sat in it with the driver's door open, playing aimlessly with its gadgets. Ryan Giggs leant on the side of the next car, talking to his team-mate. Occasionally, the watchers could hear them laughing.

Roy Keane did not stop to talk as he marched past. He muttered something playfully derisive to Beckham about his numberplate and forged on towards the gym. The crowd surged towards him half-heartedly for a moment but he darted past them and through some swing doors. They fell back and resumed the Giggs-watch.

Keane knows that he is not one of the boys any more. He still has his brooding good looks, of course, but he is past the heart-throb stage now, married with two young daughters. Something else marks him out, too. If Giggs and Beckham are obviously revelling in their youth, living fast lives in fast cars, Keane, who will celebrate his 26th birthday tomorrow by leading United out against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane to open their defence of the championship, is trying hard to grow up.

He has been given little option. Some time in the close season, without any fanfare or official announcement, Alex Ferguson, the United manager, sent the moral majority who like their footballers anodyne and unimpeachable into paroxysms of indignation when he appointed Keane the successor to Eric Cantona and made him captain of the most successful club in England. "One wonders this time," one newspaper said, "if the United manager is not stretching credulity a bit too far."

The objections had little to do with Keane's ability. Since United signed him from Nottingham Forest for £3.75 million four years ago, he has been widely recognised as one of their outstanding players, their focus, their driving force, a box-to-box midfield player whose unrelenting aggression, whose biting tackles and ceaseless running has made him respected by his peers and hated by opposing fans everywhere.

The problem was a disciplinary record and a snarling, snapping attitude that would have made Liam Gallagher wince. Near the top of the list was his sending-off for an atrocious foul on Gareth Southgate, the good son of English football, in the 1994 FA Cup semi-final against Crystal Palace. There have been a handful of minor off-the-field incidents, too.

He has become so unpopular at other grounds that the football magazine, *FourFourTwo*, played on his notoriety by making it one of its central planks of the pre-season preview this month. In a questionnaire sent to every FA Carling Premiership club, it asked fans "what are you going to sing when Roy Keane turns up?". Most said the answer was unprintable, another said "nothing, he'll probably be suspended".

Keane, himself, is largely unperturbed by all the bad-boy stuff and Diadora, the sportswear company with which he has recently signed a £2 million contract, has managed to use it to its advantage. Its latest advertisement, an image of Keane in full flow, his eyes painted red like a demon's, carries the slogan "We sold our soul to the devil".

After that kind of build-up and warnings that the young Irishman from Cork is surly and rude and answers questions in monosyllables, meeting him is like an epiphany, a happy revelation that this man who plays so sublimely and moves with such speed and stealth has a character and a sense of humour that is worth admiring, too.

He speaks not with the rasp or the snarl that his familiar on-pitch scowl might suggest, but with a bewitching, soft southern Irish lilt, a gentle accent that smooths away his hard edges. His gaze is strong and steady, his eyes flicker with a benevolent sense of mischief and his words are full of candour and free of the bitterness that has crept into the souls of other footballers who have not suffered half the vilification that he has.

"I'm aware that now I'm captain people are waiting for me to get sent off so they can have a go," Keane said. "But that was the case last year anyway. That happens because you play for Manchester United. It will be worse now but I was going to try to change that side of my game anyway. Hopefully, as you get older, you calm down a little bit.

"I am not going to change my game just because I am captain, though. I am sure there will be bookings along the way and there will be people getting on my back for getting booked. I mean, players everywhere mistime challenges and I will still get booked for that sort of thing but I have been planning to try to cut the silly bookings out for a while now.

Keane is being marketed by Diadora as the player with the devil in his eyes

"Then again, I have been saying that for the last seven or eight years and it has still not come right. Even when I was at Forest, Brian Clough used to tell me I had to calm down but it is just part of my game. Hopefully, I won't be sent off as captain, but if I was a betting man, I wouldn't have much money on that.

"I was a bit wary about whether the gaffer would give me the captaincy because everyone was saying maybe I wouldn't be able to handle the responsibility with all the off-field stuff and all the worries about my temperament on the field. I wasn't expecting to be made captain, but then again I wasn't surprised either. I knew Pally [Gary Pallister] and Peter [Schmeichel] would be there or thereabouts but I was delighted when it was me."

Keane knows that his biggest task in a season when he will attempt to lead United to their fifth Premiership title in six seasons will be to try to cure his rank inability to turn the other cheek that extends from the pitch to the pub and the nightclub. He trained as a boxer when he was growing up in Cork and playing his amateur football for Cobh Rangers and he is not afraid to defend himself against those who bait him.

"I have got a reputation for attracting trouble off the pitch," Keane said, "and I think that's fair. When I go out, I could be with 20 other players but someone always seems to have a go at me because they think I am the so-called hard man on the field and they want to see what I can do off it.

"The worst thing is that if people have a go at me, I usually have a go back because I don't want to put up with that. I don't think that's fair. I think I should be entitled to go for a few drinks if I want. If someone has a go at me, then nine times out of ten I'll say 'come on then' and have a go back.

"When I first came to Forest, I was only a young lad, I had just come over to England, I had a few quid and there were nightclubs about. That is where I would get in trouble, not in pubs but in clubs where everyone has had a bit too much to drink and you are queueing up for taxis at two or three o'clock in the morning.

"I had a few good years of that but in the last year or two I have definitely settled down. I really only go local now, to the pub where people know me and don't give me hassle. People talk about my wild days at Forest but it was only two or three incidents over five years."

Beckham and Giggs, perhaps, have got all that to come but, although Keane refuses to make any promises and laughs in the face of troubles to come, even he seems to sense that the captaincy could help him to turn the corner. "People give a dog a bad name," he said, "and I've got one, but things are changing for me now."

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GUARANTEED MINIMUM ODDS OF AT LEAST –

6/1 FOUR HOME WINS
8/1 A HOME WIN, A DRAW, AN AWAY
17/2 THREE AWAY WINS

11-8	Barnsley	11-5	West Ham	13-8
8-11	Blackburn	9-4	Derby	10-3
2-1	Coventry	9-4	Chelsea	11-10
8-11	Everton	9-4	Crystal Pal.	10-3
13-8	Leeds	2-1	Arsenal	6-4
2-1	Leicester	2-1	Aston Villa	5-4
4-7	Newcastle	12-5	Sheff. Wed.	9-2
11-10	Southampton	9-4	Bolton	2-1
2-1	Tottenham ●	2-1	Man. Utd.	5-4
2-1	Wimbledon	9-4	Liverpool	11-10
4-5	Birmingham	9-4	Stoke	3-1
Evs.	Bradford	9-4	Stockport	9-4
10-11	Bury	9-4	Reading	5-2
8-11	Man. City	9-4	Portsmouth	10-3
1-2	Middlesbro.	12-5	Charlton	11-2
11-8	Norwich	11-5	Wolves	13-8
Evs.	Oxford	9-4	Huddersfield	9-4
13-8	Port Vale	11-5	Nott'm. Forest	11-8
5-6	Q.P.R.	9-4	Ipswich	11-4
11-8	Sheff. Utd. ■	11-5	Sunderland	13-8
10-11	Swindon	9-4	Crewe	5-2
Evs.	West Brom.	9-4	Tranmere	9-4
11-8	Blackpool	11-5	Luton	13-8
11-10	Grimsby	9-4	Bristol City	2-1
5-4	Millwall	9-4	Brentford	7-4
11-10	Watford	9-4	Burnley	2-1
5-4	Gr. Morton	12-5	Airdrie	13-8

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Gallen hoping to benefit from seasonal variation

By Russell Kempson

KEVIN GALLEN, the Queens Park Rangers striker, had been looking forward to the 1996-97 season. It was a chance to enhance his reputation, add to his England honours at youth and under-21 level and perhaps attract the interest of the FA Carling Premiership hawks.

It started well, with three goals in his first two league matches, but suddenly went awry. In the act of scoring his third, in the 2-1 victory against Portsmouth at Fratton Park, Gallen stretched bravely at the near post and was clipped on the right knee. His cruciate ligament tore: end of season.

Almost a year later — a year of pain, frustration and frequent desolation — he is ready to make his comeback, possibly when QPR play Ipswich Town at Loftus Road this afternoon. The Nationwide League first division awaits him with interest.

"If I'm selected, and hopefully I will be, it'll be a big day," Gallen said. "I just hope it all comes back to me when I get out on to the pitch. I hope I haven't forgotten what to do.

"We've got a lot of options up front, with Trevor Sinclair, John Spencer and now Mike Sheron as well as myself, so I know it's not going to be easy to get in the side. If I get picked, I'd obviously like to stay in the whole time.

"Things have gone well in pre-season. I'm getting stronger with every match and I'm delighted with the way it's gone. I just need that first competitive game to see how it goes."

Gallen, 21, has scored six goals during QPR's build-up and Stewart Houston, the manager, is cautiously optimistic that one of the league's brightest young talents is fully rehabilitated. "He's done well but the next step is a big one," he said. "We'll have to wait and see what happens."

QPR should mount a challenge for the first division title — in the Football League's 99th season — but have been strangely ignored by most pundits. Not surprisingly, Middlesbrough, Manchester City, Nottingham Forest and Wolverhampton Wanderers have attracted most of the attention.

Mark McGhee, the Wolves manager, strengthened his hand yesterday by completing the signing of Mixu Paatelainen, the Bolton Wanderers striker, for £200,000. If he recovers from flu, Paatelainen, 30, the Finland international, will be included in the squad to play Norwich City at Carrow Road.

Gallen said: "Nobody's tipped us at all, which could work in our favour. "I can see why everyone's going for Boro, because of the money they've spent and the good players they've got, but they might find this division a lot harder than they think — a bit like when we came down last season. They could be in for a shock."

Middlesbrough, minus Juninho yet still with Fabrizio "I never wanted to leave" Ravanelli, open their campaign against Charlton Athletic at the Riverside Stadium. Paul Merson, a £5 million purchase from Arsenal, will make his debut, but David Platt, his former Highbury team-mate, will not be alongside him.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough player-manager, spoke with Platt again yesterday about a possible £2 million move and has told the former England captain to think it over. "Nothing will happen until next week," Robson said. "I've not yet discussed personal terms with David. He has a few things to sort out and we decided not to rush it. We felt it would be better to get the weekend over and then talk."

Sammy McIlroy, the Macclesfield Town manager, is unlikely to vie with Robson — the Cheshire club's budget would barely stretch to Platt's pocket money — but the Moss Rose should be filled to near capacity today when the league's newest members take on Torquay United in the third division. At 14-1 for the title, they look a tempting each-way bet.

FA imposes heavy fine for poor behaviour

MIDDLESBROUGH have been fined £25,000 by the Football Association for their poor disciplinary record last season, when they were relegated from the FA Carling Premiership. The suspended fine was activated yesterday after Middlesbrough failed to improve their behaviour.

Middlesbrough also has another suspended fine of £50,000 hanging over it, which will be reviewed at the end of the new season. Middlesbrough had three men sent off and 77 cautions.

Gillingham, the second division club, have had a £10,000 suspended fine activated and face paying another £20,000 while Norwich City has received a £30,000 suspended fine. Portsmouth have had half of their £10,000 suspended fine activated after their record last season improved.

Niall Quinn, Keith Branagan, Alan Moore, Keith O'Neill, Denis Irwin and Phil Babb have been recalled to the Ireland squad for the World Cup group eight qualifying game against Lithuania in Dublin on August 20. Jason McAteer, the Liverpool defender, is suspended.

IRELAND SQUAD: S Given (Newcastle United), K Branagan (Bolton Wanderers), J Kenna (Blackburn Rovers), D Irwin (Manchester United), S Staunton (Aston Villa), K Cunningham (Wimbledon), I Harte (Leeds United), G Breen (Coventry City), C Fleming (Middlesbrough), T Phelan (Everton), P Babb (Liverpool), R Houghton (Reading), R Keane (Manchester United), A Townsend (Aston Villa), A McLoughlin (Portsmouth), M Kennedy (Liverpool), A Moore (Middlesbrough), D Connolly (Feyenoord), K O'Neill (Norwich City), A Cascarino (Nancy), N Quinn (Sunderland), D Kelly (Tranmere Rovers)

Stone rolls back to centre stage

By Richard Hobson

THE freak accident suffered by Alan Shearer last month served to demonstrate just how fragile is the human body. Steve Stone required no reminder. Almost a year has passed since he underwent surgery on a ruptured patella tendon, but the manner of the injury that threatened his career remains as maddeningly bizarre even today.

Stone was playing for Nottingham Forest against Leicester City in September when he moved to accept a routine pass on the right flank in his own half. His heel slipped, his bodyweight turned over the knee and left him in a heap by the touchline. "A lot of people in the stand and even some of the players thought I was fooling around," Stone recalled.

Laughter dissipated quickly. Stone is an effervescent character by nature, an easy-going, down-to-earth soul, but the ensuing months have tested his inclination to laugh. He is smiling again now, his recovery almost complete, and the City Ground is a cheerier place for it.

Setting a date for his return in a league fixture was always precarious. A second operation in January to remove the wire that held together his reconstructed knee was delayed by three weeks and, as recently as April, after minor complications, he wondered whether he would be able to play before October.

It is a fear now long forgotten. He joined Forest on a pre-season tour in Finland and played for the final half-hour in a game against Leeds United last Saturday. Three days later, he lasted 85 minutes of the Nottinghamshire County Cup final against Notts County. He remains short of match practice, but could feature at some stage when Forest begin their attempt to return to the FA Carling Premiership against Port Vale today.

He would also like to figure in the World Cup finals next year, should England qualify. His international career began so promisingly in an otherwise dour goalless draw against Norway in Oslo, where he came on as a substitute, and he scored on each of his first two starting appearances, but he knows it will be hard for him to recover his place while he is playing outside the Premiership. A three-year extension to his present contract remains unsigned, although he says that he has no desire to leave Forest.

The club's decline last season made his absence even more frustrating. Embroiled in a protracted takeover that alienated supporters, they were unable to sign the players they clearly required to ensure survival until their miserable fate had been effectively decided.

Yet Stone remains optimistic, with good reason. After all, he broke his leg three times as a teenager when even a debut seemed light years away. He has not done too badly since.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

After 110 years, Barnsley are in the big time at last. **Mark Hodkinson** begins a weekly series on their first season in the FA Carling Premiership

Town squints in history's glare

LIFE AT THE TOP

The sun is shining on Barnsley. Liam Gallagher's familiar brick dust and glue whine beckons from a record shop. Young girls — 14 and a-courtin' — gather at the entrance to the market precinct. In Peel Square, the *Tommy Wallocks* pub has a loose assembly of lunch-time drinkers resting against its portal.

This heat. It is all they talk about. "But it's too humid, isn't it? *Not like you get abroad,*" says one old boy to another, his canvas shopping bag by his feet as he sits on a bench outside Marks & Spencer. The world ambles by, all loose-limbed *and languid.*

At first, the crowd of shoppers is a blur. There is then a trickle of recognition, like a familiar face spotted in a group photograph. One red shirt passes, then, a few seconds later, another. On each is the white rose of Yorkshire and the unusual word, *Ora.* These are the shirts of Barnsley FC (Ora is the club's main sponsor), and it could be a trick of the imagination, but the wearers seem to have a spring in their step, a smile on their face.

Barnsley FC, after 110 years, have finally reached the highest *strata of English football. At 3pm* today they will play West Ham United at their Oakwell ground in the FA Carling Premiership. It will be an all-singing, all-dancing, occasion with more than an hour's worth of pre-match entertainment: plenty of time for the *Match of the Day* cameras to linger on a tear wiped, a face painted. When a club has waited this long — precisely 5,714 weeks — it is clearly not going to be one of those restrained, nervy affairs where no one dare start the first dance.

Overstatement is a journalist's accomplice, but we are fast running out of words to relate the magnitude of their achievement. A heavy snowstorm is a white hell, every car *crash horrific;* so the impassioned response to Barnsley's success is *said to be at "fever pitch". It is* actually beyond this. It is at the cold bucket of water and a nurse-on-standby-stage.

Signs of the times: all roads lead to Oakwell. Photographs: John Angerson

At the beginning of last season, Barnsley had 2,500 season-ticket holders. It now has 16,500. The club sold eight times as many replica shirts during the first *weekend they went on sale than in* the whole of last season. Some fans even camped overnight outside the club shop (sorry, Reds Superstore) so they could be the first on Barnsley's streets in the new shirts. Cynics have predicted that the fervour will be shortlived. Such a suggestion is an anathema in the *town, a load of Tommy Wallocks,* so to speak.

The media interest is phenomenal. It sees a parable. David and Goliath, and romance, and a certain sentimentality. Danny Wilson, Barnsley's manager, has tried to remain stolid amid the clamour. This is a man who, as a player, *turned out for eight different clubs* in nearly 800 league matches. He wants to hear the crunch of shinpads, see shirts drenched in sweat. In short, he wants the hubbub to subside.

Barnsley is enjoying the attention, though a certain wariness and scepticism prevails. They feel a media that has come in search of romance had previously shown apathy, *or worse, suggested* that the fauna was solely whippet, ferret or pigeon and the flora non-existent, apart from the odd weed among the cobblestones.

It is, in fact, typically provincial England, an Anytown UK. It has dual carriageways and industrial estates, car parks and Kwik-Fits. Beyond the housing estates there is magnificent open countryside stretching to Leeds, *Sheffield and Manchester.*

Aside from the sporting commotion, the heart of the town has beat much the same as it ever did during the summer of 1997. It was the last summer for the actor, Brian Glover, an ex-pupil of Barnsley Grammar School, and also for Stan Bradder, a 79-year-old former miner. Stan died in a chair at his home and before his body was discovered, thieves broke in and stole some of his possessions. The following night, as Stan remained slumped, they repeated the robbery, ripping open his mattress looking for money. there is evil in every Anytown UK, sometimes to the power of two.

The news pages of *The Barnsley Chronicle* have also related the absurd. In June, the town was *swamped by the smell of rotten* eggs. Environmental Health staff found high levels of sulphur dioxide in the air and averred that it had blown over from Doncaster. Yorkshire towns are fond of the odd spat, be it over sport or effluvia.

Cameras, microphones, and notebooks will today sweep through Oakwell but by Monday, the weekend's newspapers will have faded in the sun and Barnsley, a nation's beloved underdog, will start to feel like sepia-tinged news. Thereafter, the poetry will *give way to the mud, blood,* sweat and slog of a season in professional football. Danny Wilson is ready. Barnsley is ready, a season awaits.

Market forces out emerging talent all over Europe

BRIAN GLANVILLE

Make sense of the market — if you can. Liverpool sell the struggling Stan *Collymore for £7 million,* and pick up Karlheinz Riedle, one of the game's great strikers, for £1.6 million, a deal that jeopardises the *chances of one of the finest* young prospects England has had for years: Michael Owen, the 17-year-old Liverpool-born striker. Doomed, perhaps, to become a prophet without honour in his own city.

Juventus, last summer, having just won the European Cup, transferred both their formidable strikers to England. Fabrizio Ravanelli goes and stays down with the ship at Middlesbrough, largely because no one is prepared to pay £7 million for him. As for that colossus *of the Italian game, Gianluca* Vialli, no one is prepared to take him, either, given his £20,000-a-week salary. So one of football's heroes, dear *to his fellow players,* will again be obliged to warm the Chelsea bench.

The Bosman verdict is behind it all; and Jean-Marc Bosman himself is emphatically behind the eight ball. Impoverished, inactive, ignored by the players he made rich, he evokes the famous words of the boxer, Brian London: "I'm just a prawn in their hands."

Used to gain not only freedom of contract for European Union players moving from one country to another but — something quite alien to his own predicament — to ensure that any EU club can not only sign but deploy as many EU players as it likes.

The late Artemio Franchi, Italy's resilient Uefa president, fought such developments for years; with no real weapon. EU rules were plain. EU workers, footballers among them, could work — or play — wherever they liked.

AC Milan, this season, will have room in their team for only three or four Italians. And to think that, in the Fifties, people worried that the three great Swedes, Gren, Nordahl and Liedhulm, were keeping out Italian players at Milan.

Now Arsenal might well hang up the notice, "*Ici on parle français*". And in the dressing-room, the French equivalent of the one which hung on the walls of pre-war Hollywood studios: "It is not enough to be a *Hungarian, you must* have talent."

Too many foreigners? Cesare Maldini, Italy's manager father of Paolo, *thinks so. He is worried by* the lack of opportunity for *rising Italian* midfield players. In England, Gordon Taylor of the Professional Footballers' Association has expressed the same fears.

Howard Wilkinson, the new supremo of English coaching, went to Malaysia for the recent world under-20 tournament, deplored our alleged deficiencies in technique, and *has* imposed a system of centres of alleged excellence, run by our clubs.

But who says that they are excellent? And who says that we are really falling so far behind the rest? A fine young *Ireland team,* almost wholly made up of players with English clubs, took third place in the Malaysian tournament.

Wilkinson arrived at Lancaster Gate after disastrous days at Leeds United, whom he left with a legacy of disappointing players. Surely he knows that good youth coaches are thin on the ground. Why should he assume that any club has got them? As for the idea of coaching five-year-olds, leave them alone! Give them at least a few years to enjoy their football.

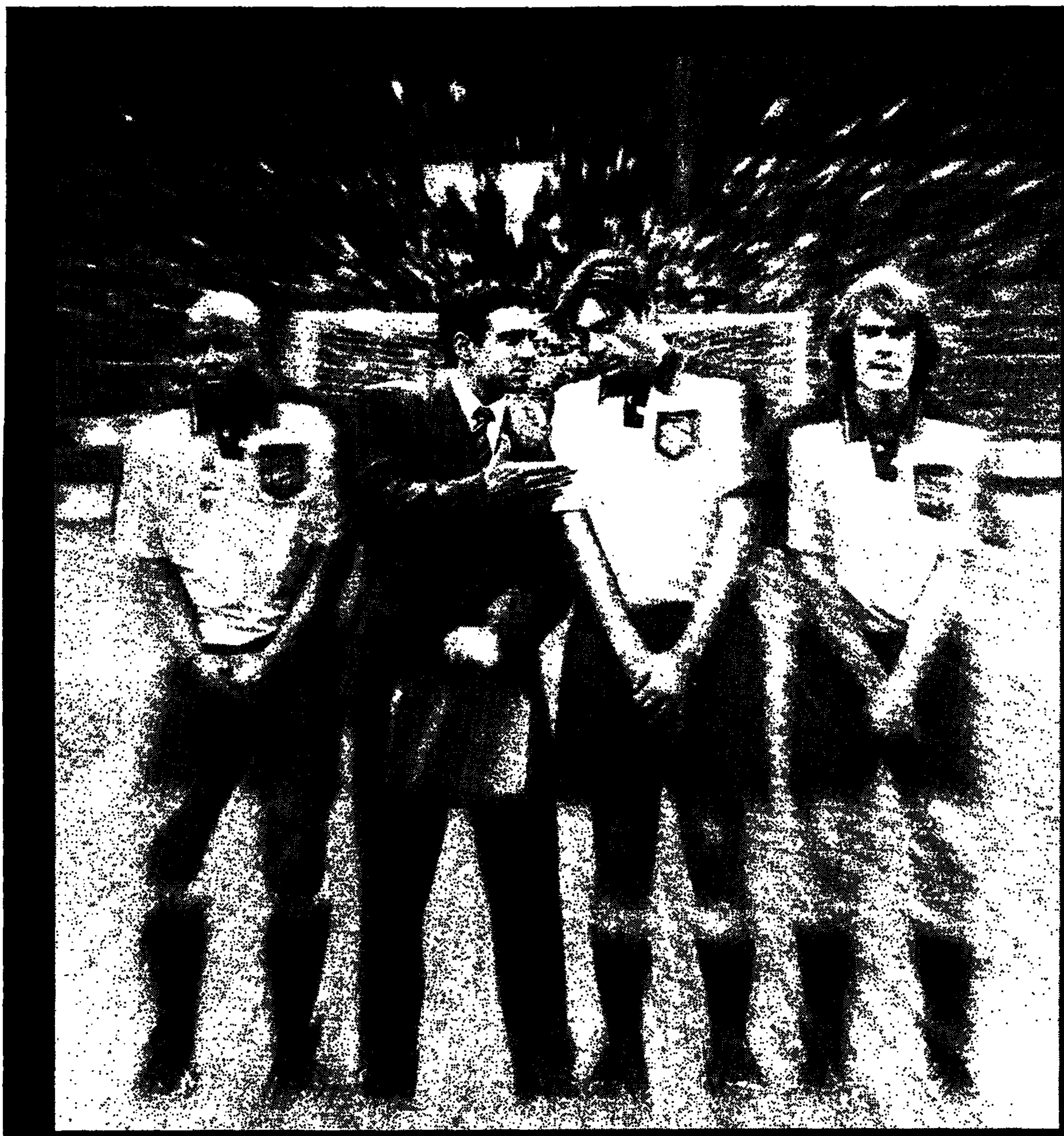
This week, Ruud Gullit, a great player and a successful Chelsea manager, talked of foreign footballers and the related problems. English players, he insisted, as many do, were simply *too expensive — he gave Le* Saux at £7.5 million as a salient example.

Now, he has signed him for £5 million when he already has two younger left backs in Babayaro, the 18-year-old Nigerian, and Granville, an excellent prospect who he signed from Cambridge United. English players could become attractive propositions again when those over 24 acquire freedom of contract.

But why, when asked, *had he signed the Holland* goalkeeper De Goey for £2.5 million? De Goey, after all, has scarcely, so far, looked inspiring. It was, *Gullit said,* a great opportunity.

Then there is Tore Andre Flo who scored a first-half hat-trick in a pre-season game against Stevenage Borough last Monday, all of them with those clever feet, despite *his size. What happens* to him, given the presence of Zola, Hughes and Vialli? Acquiring the Uruguay midfield player Poyet has so far meant pushing Di *Matteo* out to the left, where he does not look happy.

"I'm happy to have quality players," Gullit said. "Everybody says, now you will have a headache, but I'm happy to have the headaches. How many coaches would like to have the headaches?" Sometime, somewhere, our clubs must strike a balance. But who knows when?



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Coulthard ready to drive a hard bargain at McLaren

SPORT

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CRICKET 42-43
Warne spins wheel of fortune back towards Australia

Le Saux lured back to Stamford Bridge on eve of big kick-off

Chelsea have the last word as the time for talk passes

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

CHELSEA yesterday beat out one final warning to the rest of the FA Carling Premiership when they emphasised their dramatic change in fortunes by breaking their transfer record on the eve of the new season to buy back a player who was once so desperate to leave the club that he said he would have "parachuted out of a snake's backside" to get away.

Four years ago, when Graeme Le Saux got his wish and left Stamford Bridge for Blackburn Rovers for £650,000, Chelsea seemed to be marooned in no-man's land. Yesterday, though, the England defender was back at the club's training ground on the edge of west London, marvelling at how much things had changed and enthusing at the prospect of working with Ruud Gullit and his foreign legion.

A player who makes no secret of his fierce ambition, Le Saux said he had joined Chelsea because he felt Gullit had built a squad capable of challenging for the championship this season and the £5 million that the club spent to prise him away from Ewood Park was a clear statement of intent to the rest of England's top clubs.

As Gianfranco Zola peeped impishly through the glass doors where Le Saux was being presented to the media, patently delighted that another top-class player had arrived to augment a burgeoning squad, the Channel Islander, 28, who has become a fixture on the left side of England's midfield, said he had only had to "dust off the cobwebs in my mind" to find his way back to the training ground.

"It has all happened very quickly," Le Saux, who spent five and a half years at Chelsea in his first spell, said. "In the time I have been away from Chelsea, so much has changed and I have changed for the better, too. I am a better player now.

"I don't regret saying the thing about the parachute. Time changes things and circumstances change. I have got ambitions and I feel the move to Chelsea fulfils those ambitions. When I was here before, that was not the case."

Le Saux was so besieged by camera crews, photographers and journalists that he was given an ironic but good-humoured round of applause by his new team-mates when he finally dashed out on to the training pitch to begin preparations for the match against Coventry City at Highfield Road in which he may begin to add to his record of 90 appearances in Chelsea colours.

That likelihood increased later yesterday when it was revealed that Celestine Babayaro, the Nigerian left wing-back signed for £2.25 million from Anderlecht during the summer, had suffered a stress fracture of the tibia when he executed a celebratory somersault during Chelsea reserves' 3-0 win against Stevenage earlier this week. He is likely to be out of action for at least six weeks.

"It is not true that Le Saux and Babayaro play in the same position anyway," Gullit, the coach, said. "Babayaro can play on the left side of midfield, which would give us another option. There are no players who will play all the games because there are bound to be injuries and we have such a talented squad.

"Le Saux's experience will be very useful for us. It is crucial that we keep our momentum going after winning the FA Cup last season and if the standard goes up with the arrival of players like him, it will keep the rest of them on their toes."

Gullit said that the path to the transfer had been smoothed because the £7 million price Blackburn placed on Le Saux had frightened off potential rivals, Arsenal included. Colin Hutchison, the Chelsea managing director, who admitted that Chelsea had made an expensive mistake when they sold Le Saux in March 1993, said the deal had been a true product of the high-tech age.

Negotiations had begun on Wednesday but Le Saux was only informed that agreement over a fee had been reached when he got home from training on Thursday evening. He then began the drive to London, talking to Hutchinson and Gullit about personal terms on his mobile phone as he went.

By the time he arrived in west London at 11.30pm, the deal had been done and the contract was ready to sign. He drove into Hammersmith for a medical at Charing Cross Hospital, where particular attention was paid to the ankle he broke two years ago, then back out to a hotel near Heathrow Airport where he signed the four-year deal in the early hours of yesterday morning.

"You have not even seen some of my new signings like Babayaro and Lambourde yet," Gullit said as the press conference ended yesterday. "Things are only going to get better here." His words will be ringing in the ears of the rest of the Premiership as they prepare for the big kick-off.

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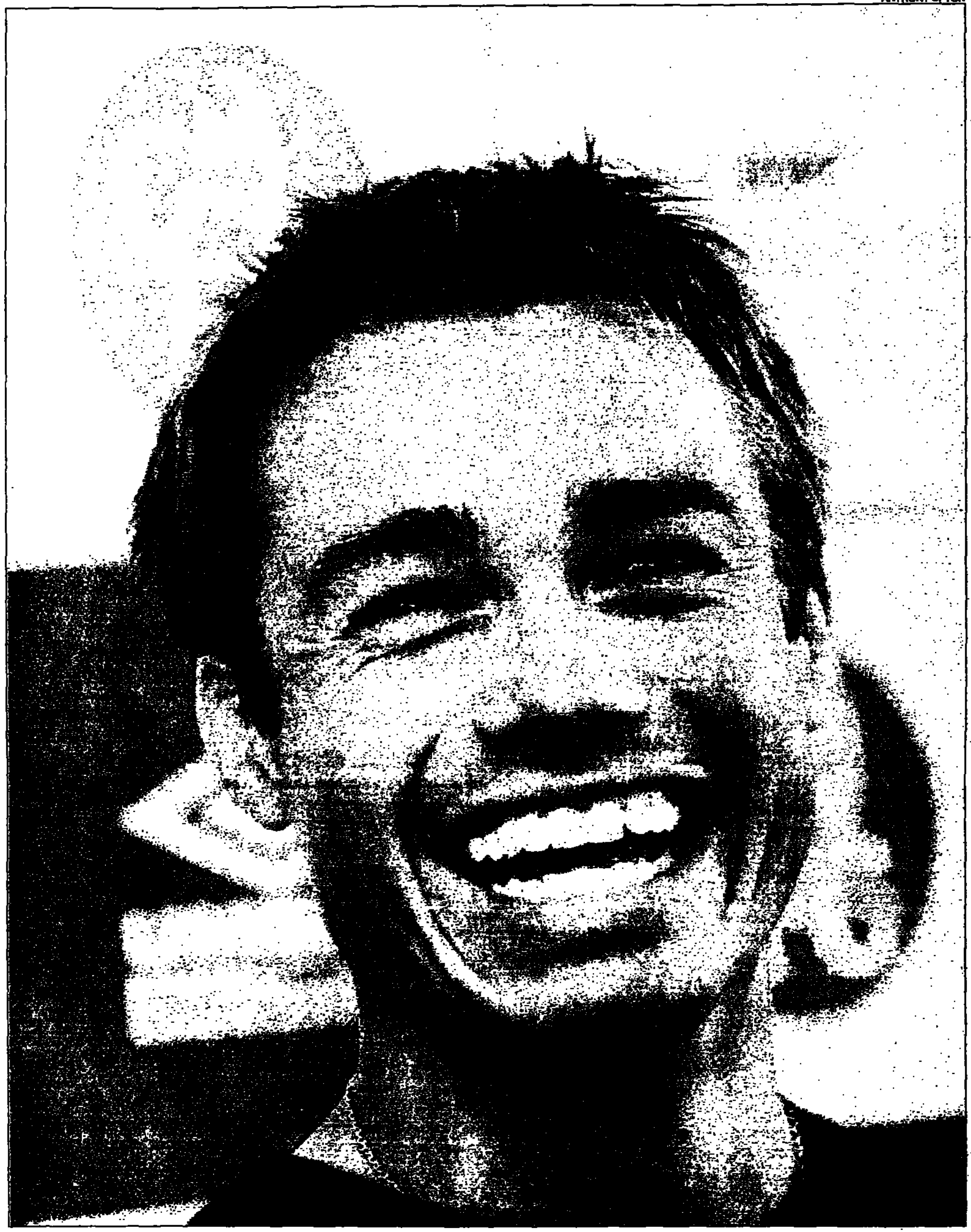
ANTHONY UPTON



London calling: Le Saux is all smiles as he meets the media after agreeing to return to Chelsea in a £5 million move from Blackburn

Why I'm in a lather over Teddy's new role

Actors are not permitted to swap soaps, so why should footballers be allowed to change clubs?

LYNNE TRUSS

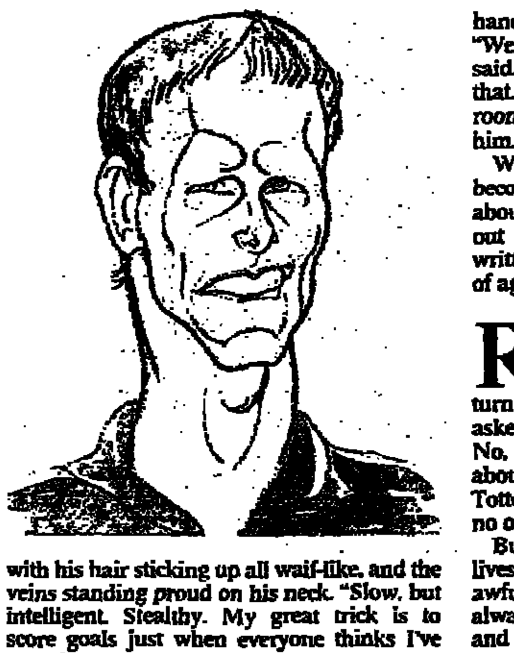
I blame the chemistry of the brain, myself. Somehow, the male brain has generally evolved to remember everything that ever happened in sport, while the female brain remembers everything that ever happened in *EastEnders*. But I'm sure the brain bits are the same. Men and women think they are worlds apart, but we're not really. It's just that sports fans remember who did what, and when (which is boring). Soap followers remember who did what, and why (which is interesting).

Yet, in terms of audience appeal, sport and soap opera actually have much in common. Character is supremely important in both. For example, if football were a real soap opera, Gianfranco Zola would be the loveable, talented one who never gets a girlfriend, while Andy Cole's scary nightclub would employ David Batty with knuckle-dusters on the door. You see?

Alan Shearer would be Unlucky Al (always injuring himself), heart-on-sleeve Martin O'Neill would be crossed in love (jubilation and tears, by turns). Meanwhile, at the sight of Nasty Mister Ferguson prowling in his overcoat, children would squeal and run indoors (No change there).

This soap opera model is what (for me, anyway) makes Teddy Sheringham's transfer to Manchester United a cause of serious vertigo — as if someone from *Brookside* had turned up in *The Archers*. How can we accept Sheringham in his new role? It's absurd. It blows the world apart. Because it's worse than just a turncoat change of allegiance. Last Sunday, at the Charity Shield, not only was Sheringham wearing an alien shirt, but it was quite clear his character had been radically rewritten.

"OK, so you are now a dynamic player, permanently in the thick of things," they told him. "You run a lot, sometimes with the ball." Well, what a bombshell. No one had mentioned this when Sheringham signed the deal. "But I am Steady Teddy," he objected.



with his hair sticking up all waif-like, and the veins standing proud on his neck. "Slow, but intelligent. Stealthy. My great trick is to score goals just when everyone thinks I've gone home."

But they looked unimpressed, so Teddy went on. "I am the sort of chap who, to borrow a line from Dr Johnson, possesses no minute-hand, but strikes the hour very correctly." "Well, not any more, cuckoo-clock-boy," they said. "Get tick-tick-ticking." And so that was that. Teddy turned, and wordlessly left the room. "But keep the Ferrari," they called after him. "Nice touch."

Will Teddy forget his former training and become a crowd-pleaser? He needn't worry about filling Cantona's shoes because it turns out that in football (just like soap opera) written-out characters are simply never heard of again.

Red No 7 shirts with "DIEU" spelt on them already look silly, and will soon be cut up for dusters. When children turn up their collars, Eric-fashion, they'll be asked "What on earth are you doing that for?" No, Sheringham won't be on nerve tablets about filling Cantona's place. After all, at Tottenham he replaced the sainted Gary. If no one likes him, he doesn't care.

But on the other hand, if Alex Ferguson lives to regret his choice, a lot of people will be awfully cheered up. Ha ha ha. Ferguson always looks like a man who's lost a shilling and found a French one with a hole in it — now he's lost Eric Cantona and found Teddy Sheringham! Tee hee. If this were a real telly soap opera, the audience would be gleefully rubbing its hands already.

Edwards fails to replenish gold reserves

From David Powell
Athletics Correspondent
in Athens

UNLESS there is a huge surprise over the weekend, Great Britain will complete the world championships here without a gold medal after Jonathan Edwards failed to retain his triple jump title yesterday. Edwards had to settle for silver as had Denise Lewis, in the heptathlon, Steve Backley, in the javelin and Colin Jackson, in the 100 metres hurdles.

Edwards's performance at the last world championships, in Gothenburg in 1995, made him the International Amateur Athletics Federation male athlete of the year. On that occasion he set two world records on his way to victory but here he was unable to recapture his best form, just as he had at the Atlanta Olympic games last year, when he was second to Kenny Harrison, of the United States.

This time Harrison failed to qualify for the final three of six jumps but a new champion emerged, Yoelvis Quesada, from Cuba. Quesada produced his winning leap of 17.85 metres, 44 centimetres short of Edwards's world record, in the second round. Edwards leapt 17.69 metres with his final jump.

"I have no idea really what went wrong," Edwards said. "I was aware of the expectation but that is not extra pressure, it is greater motivation. I realised the importance for British athletics as a whole. It [the pressure] was in no way negative".

Edwards had not jumped in competition for six weeks as he nursed a heel injury, but did not offer this as an excuse. "The heel was fine," Edwards said. "It did not stop me jumping at all. I guess if I knew what I was doing differently, I would put it right."

Britain has now won 19 silver medals in global championships since its last gold. If there is even a small chance of a victory this weekend, it must be in the mens 4 x 400 metres relay. However, the United States, with Michael Johnson, begin as firm favourites.

It was, perhaps, asking too much to expect Edwards to come here and win without any competitive preparation. Prior to Gothenburg, he had exceeded 18 metres four times.

THE FOOTBALL SEASON STARTS HERE

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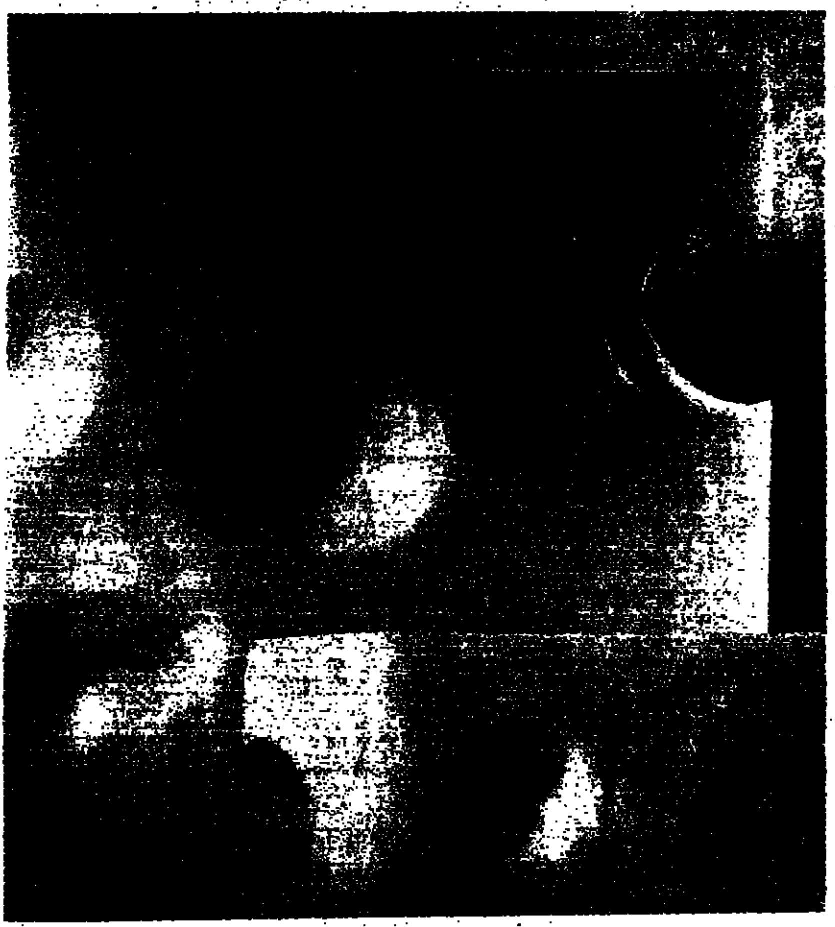
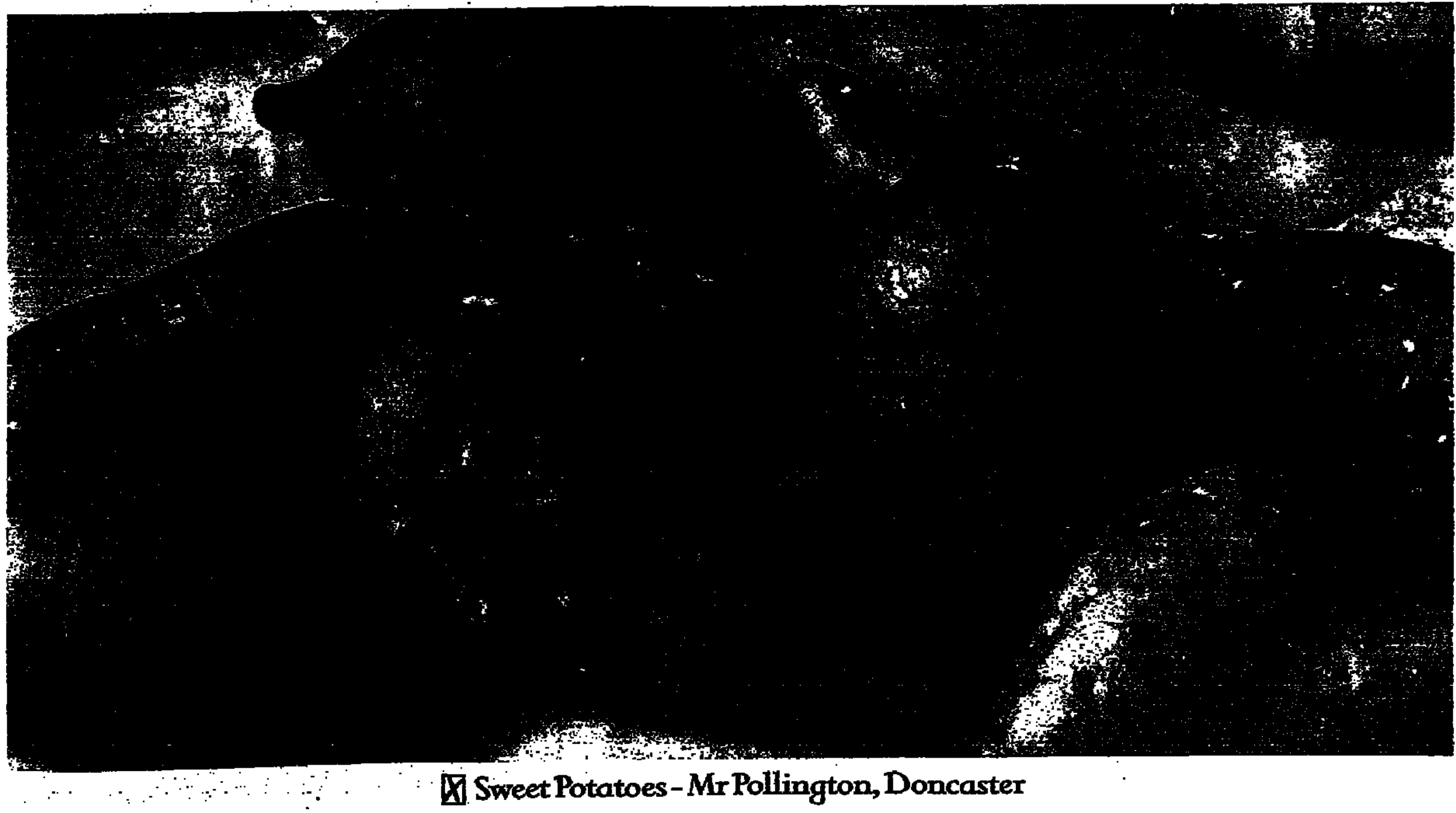


☒ Norwegian Jarlsberg - Mrs Simms, Taunton

☒ Focaccia Bread - Mr Hammond, Chislehurst



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SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Mir captain faces bumpy return to Earth

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

Tsibliyev: Mir plagued by series of disasters

VASILI TSIBLIYEV, the outgoing commander of the crippled Russian space station Mir, faces heavy criticism when he returns home next week amid charges that he twice nearly destroyed Russia's space station.

While the 43-year-old space veteran's six months of gruelling service should be coming to an end, many predict his ordeal may only be starting.

Mr Tsibliyev took command of Mir in February, just after it suffered the worst fire in space history. Over the next weeks Mir suffered a leaking cooling system, failing oxygen generators, and the breakdown of the carbon dioxide removal system.

Nevertheless, the setbacks were nothing compared with the accident on June 25 when Mr Tsibliyev attempted the manual docking of a Progress supply ship, which crashed into Mir's Spektr module, causing the loss of half the station's power.

When it was decided to go ahead with a risky operation to repair the damage and reconnect the energy supply, the luckless cosmonaut developed a "stress-related heart condition" which forced mission control to send up a replacement crew to carry out the work.

While no one could deny his run of bad luck, his superiors at the Korolyov control centre in Moscow are clearly running out of patience.

"We have been hearing complaints of the workload being too heavy ever since his first day in flight," complained Viktor Blagov, the deputy mission chief. "Maybe it is just personal and he can't work as fast as we urge him to ... Maybe we just want too much from him."

There is still debate about a second incident on July 17. However, the Russian press is convinced that the unidentified "crew member", who accidentally unplugged the computer cable which left the spacecraft adrift for a day, was again the accident-prone commander. This time, however, there have been few public recriminations and the Russian space agency has gone out of its way not to apportion blame, possibly out of concern that the commander could suffer a serious heart seizure in space.

Aleksandr Koretsky, the space correspondent for the daily *Sevodnya* newspaper, predicted that Mr Tsibliyev's real problems will begin after his return to earth on Thursday.

"He is going to get the toughest treatment of any cosmonaut in the history of the Russian space programme, or for that matter the Soviet space programme," he said.

Under the conditions of cosmonauts' contracts, the Russian space agency can deduct pay if it believes that work was not completed properly. For instance, in June 1995 two cosmonauts, Vladimir Dezhurov and Gennadi Strekalov, refused to conduct a space walk. They were fined on their return to Earth and only won their flight bonuses after a court action.

In Mr Tsibliyev's case the issue is more complex, since he has been subjected to far greater stress than any other commander in Russian space history because of the series of incidents on Mir. He could well argue that any attempt to put the blame on his command is a move by Russian space officials to avoid criticism that Mir is too old and too dangerous to remain operational for another two years.

The issue could become very heated and emotional, particularly after reports that his wife, Larissa, is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. The family lives in a small apartment in Star City, the cosmonaut training centre outside Moscow, where Mr Tsibliyev's son has been engaged in a series of angry rows with neighbours over his father's performance.

The family's troubles have been compounded by the recent death of Mr Tsibliyev's stepfather, whose death has been kept from the cosmonaut. During his last mission to Mir in 1993, his sister died.

More money pledged for Alpha project

Moscow: President Yeltsin yesterday authorised the Finance Ministry to borrow an extra £60 million to complete construction of Russia's portion of the Alpha international space station, a Kremlin statement said.

The state will guarantee the credit from foreign banks, which will be used to fund further work on the two modules Russia is committed to providing. Russia is anxious to maintain its key role in the project.

Russia is responsible for the first two elements of the Alpha station, which will incorporate modules built by the United States, Japan and a European consortium. America, which is helping to finance the Russians, had put pressure on Moscow to honour its commitments.

Yuri Koptev, a director of the Russian Space Agency, said the project had made "substantial" progress and about £180 million would be spent on it this year. *(AFP)*

BETTY UDESEN · AP

Mary Kay LeTourneau holding the daughter fathered by a 14-year-old she once taught. She has lost custody of her four other children and faces a jail sentence

Teacher admits rape of boy

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN KENT, WASHINGTON

AN elementary school teacher who had a baby by one of her former pupils has pleaded guilty to rape of a child.

Mary Kay LeTourneau, a 35-year-old mother of four other children, could get up to 7½ years in prison when she is sentenced on August 29. She entered her plea on Thursday.

Mrs LeTourneau said she still has feelings for the boy — who turned 14 a month after their daughter was born in May — and wants to raise the girl he fathered.

The two met when she taught him in a class of seven-to-eight year-olds in this Seattle suburb. "There was a respect, an insight, a spirit, an understanding between us that grew over time," she told *The Seattle Times.*

By the time he was in her class again, in his last year, she said, "he was my best friend. We just walked together in the same rhythm."

Mrs LeTourneau and the boy began having sex last summer. After she got pregnant, her husband told relatives, one of whom contacted school officials and social workers.

Mrs LeTourneau has since lost custody of her four other children — ages three to 12 — and her husband has filed for divorce.

The boy is receiving counselling. "He's doing fine as long as he's away from the situation and people don't harass him," said his mother, adding that he still loves the teacher.

Drunken neo-Nazis prey on campsites in eastern Germany

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

DRUNKEN youths brandishing baseball bats and yelling Nazi slogans are making life a misery for campers on the eastern German coast.

More than 160 violent incidents have been reported by the local press since the beginning of the summer and 250 extra police have been drafted to guard the tents and caravans of nervous tourists.

The assailants, usually drunk, shout slogans such as "Foreigners go home" during their frenzied night-time attacks. The assaults have been concentrated on the Baltic coast of Mecklenburg and the lakes of Brandenburg.

The targets — despite the anti-foreigner rhetoric — have been chiefly west Germans or Berliners rather than foreigners. In the second half of July alone, more than 30 people were assaulted. One group of campers was attacked with a chainsaw.

A typical incident occurred on June 28. Two drunks — one a 19-year-old who sold pickled herring on the seafront — stumbled at midnight on to a tent pitched near a Mecklenburg village. As a joke, they woke up the sleeping family and demanded to see their identity cards.

Their target, however, turned out to be a holidaying policeman who sent them packing. The youths gathered reinforcements and weapons. They returned within the hour and laid into the policeman and his wife, seven months pregnant, shouting right-wing slogans.

"If somebody shouts 'Heil Hitler' in this situation it is more likely to express the level of alcohol in his blood than his political viewpoint," says Professor Frieder Dünkel, who has been analysing youth violence for the police.

In southern Germany yesterday, a gang of about a dozen young skinheads went on the rampage at a campsite on the shore of Lake Constance and injured two people with baseball bats. One of the victims, a Turkish man, was taken to hospital with head injuries. The second victim was an 18-year-old German man who was later released from hospital. The youths had earlier been thrown off the campsite near Friedrichshafen for rowdiness.

☐ **Lübeck:** A neo-Nazi, 25, who confessed to killing a police officer told a northern German court yesterday he had acted in self-defence. Kay Diesner, from Berlin, said at the opening of his trial that the "racist-imperialist state" had declared war against him, and he had "no regrets" over the killing. *(AP)*

Korea 'black boxes' point to pilot error

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PILOT error was suspected in the Korean Air 747 crash on Guam after an initial analysis of tapes from the aircraft's final moments yesterday.

Both the flight data and cockpit voice recorders indicated there were no engine, mechanical, electrical or system failures before the jet ploughed into a hill three miles short of the airport on Wednesday, killing all but 29 of the 254 on board.

The crew said nothing to suggest they knew of any problems as they approached the airport in a heavy rainstorm. "It was a very silent cockpit," one analyst said.

In Seoul, Korean Air said it was too soon to apportion blame. "We are not yet ruling out the possibility of a sudden change in altitude caused by torrential rains, the breakdown of the glide slope or other elements which, combined, could have caused the accident," the airline said.

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

Riots and bulldozers return to townships

Councils get tough over bill payment boycott

From R.W. Johnson
in Johannesburg

IN scenes reminiscent of South Africa's anti-apartheid riots, armoured cars have been in action in Kwa Thema township near Johannesburg this week after black youths attacked council officials and stoned vehicles.

The riots are a response to municipal authorities enforcing rent and service payments in the Gauteng (Johannesburg, Pretoria) region.

There have been warnings that the Kwa Thema rioting could be the prelude to an explosion of vastly greater proportions. The scenes on television of bulldozers facing furious township crowds as they rip electricity cables out of the ground have caused anxiety here, stirring memories of the bulldozers sent in to squatter settlements by the apartheid Government to destroy illegal shack dwellings.

The present crisis has its roots in the culture of non-payment of rates, taxes, electricity charges and every other kind of service payment in black settlements in the 1970s and 1980s. Non-payment began as part of the anti-apartheid struggle and was encouraged by the ANC under the slogan of making South Africa ungovernable. It was naturally embraced by poor black residents eager to escape payment on any terms.

The apartheid authorities quailed at the thought of the mass cut-offs of water, electricity and other services that non-payment implied, and so the habit became entrenched. Township dwellers became masters in the art of service piracy, splicing electricity cables to make thousands of illegal connections, siphoning water illegally from pipes, and hacking into telephone cables.

With the ending of apartheid, the payment boycotts continued, but were now explained by the ANC as a protest against illegitimate local government structures. Once there was local democracy with the ANC in power, all would be different. This all duly came to pass, and non-payments continued.

Now the state-owned electricity company, Escom, faced by arrears of about £400 million from the Gauteng municipalities alone, has said it will cut off services unless payment is made. Local government is frantically trying to enforce payment.

One result is the rash of attacks on the houses of ANC councillors. Another is a radical improvement in payments: in Kwa Thema payments have multiplied nearly sevenfold since the measure began and are expected to double again in the next few days.

A trial of strength is under way, but with community organisations up in arms against the bulldozers it is by no means certain that the Government's nerve will hold.

☐ **Fugitive held:** Archbishop Desmond Tutu's son, Trevor, was arrested by police on charges of contempt of court after he refused to heed his father's advice and hand himself over to the authorities. Police said Mr Tutu, 41, seized at his house in Johannesburg, will be taken to East London. He was arrested nearly four years after skipping bail of 10,000 rands in connection with a 3½-year prison sentence he was to serve for a bomb threat at East London's airport in 1989. *(Reuter)*

THEMBA HADEBE

A Telkom van burns during riots in Kwa Thema township as the utilities try to enforce payment of their bills. The authorities fear there may be more violence to come

Opposition mob kills policeman in Nairobi riot

By Inigo Gilmore

A GENERAL strike called by protesters campaigning for political reforms in Kenya turned violent yesterday as a Nairobi mob kicked to death a man believed to be an undercover policeman and rampaged through the city.

Witnesses said the man was beaten by a mob soon after a rally began in Uhuru Park. Two people narrowly escaped being lynched.

It was the first violent flare-up in the capital since early last month when 13 people were killed and millions of shillings worth of property was looted and destroyed. In two suburbs demonstrators blocked roads and hurled stones at passing cars.

Shops in many Kenyan towns were closed, but this may have had more to do with fears of looting than support for the strike. It was called by the National Convention Executive Council, an umbrella group of opposition politicians, religious leaders and human rights activists, after Daniel arap Moi, the President, refused to heed demands for constitutional reforms before elections scheduled for this year.

However, the strike was declared illegal by the Government and support was not as high as anticipated. In Mombasa, Kenya's second city, public transport ran as ususal. In Nakuru, which in the past has seen some of the worst riots, shops were open as usual.

The poor turnout indicated divisions in an already divided Opposition. The independent *Daily Nation* newspaper had argued that the strike was the wrong way to advance the four-month campaign by the Opposition.

Mr Moi has helped to foment the divisions by offering cosmetic changes before the elections and a constitutional review afterwards.

However, the strike compounded worries in the stock market, which has seen the Kenyan shilling sink to a record low of 70.26 against the dollar this week.

This followed close on the heels of the withdrawal by the IMF of an aid package for Kenya because of its unhappiness with government corruption. Analysts said investors were concerned because President Moi had played down the IMF decision and urged Kenyans to become more self-reliant.

Mr Moi, 73, who has been in power for 19 years, has yet to name a date for the election.

'Miracle' escape from synagogue rocket

By Our Foreign Staff

RESIDENTS of the northern Galilee town of Kiryat Shmona had a lucky escape yesterday when the cement roof of a security room in the synagogue was shattered by a Katyusha rocket fired from southern Lebanon minutes after worshippers had left the building.

Ehud Barak, the Labour Opposition leader, who visited the town following the attack said: "It really was a miracle."

Three people in the town were lightly injured, one by flying glass. It is the first such attack since a ceasefire agreement more than a year ago.

Residents of south Lebanon were bracing themselves yesterday for Israeli reprisals. The attack came at the end of south Lebanon's bloodiest week for a year after an Israeli roadside bomb attack on Hezbollah guerrillas sparked a series of incidents that left 13 Lebanese dead, seven of them civilians.

☐ Brussels: The European Union, which has a key mediating role in the Middle East peace process, said yesterday it was concerned about what it termed counter-productive measures introduced by Israel after last month's Jerusalem bombings.

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Emerald coast loses its lustre for Aga Khan

Porto Cervo, near the spot where the Aga Khan anchored in 1958 when the Sardinian coast was largely known for shepherds and bandits

From Richard Owen in Rome

THE Aga Khan, who turned the Costa Smeralda in Sardinia into a playground for the rich and famous, is withdrawing his multimillion-pound investment in the area because local planning authorities are blocking his expansion plans, Italian newspapers reported yesterday.

The move is a body blow to Sardinia's image as an exclusive resort. Prince Karim Aga Khan is credited with discovering and developing what was then a rugged six-mile stretch of coast 40 years ago.

Sardinia, once described by D.H. Lawrence as "lost between Europe and Africa and belonging to nowhere", was largely known for its shepherds, its mountain bandits and its wild landscape until the Aga Khan's yacht took refuge from a storm in a cove along the coast between Olbia and Porto Cervo in 1958.

Aga Khan: developed *unknown coastline*

The Prince was said to have been "stunned by the clarity of the crystal blue waters".

Within four years he and a consortium of international businessmen had bought up much of the coastal land from peasants, allegedly at rock-bottom prices, and transformed it into an oasis of villas, pools and yacht clubs.

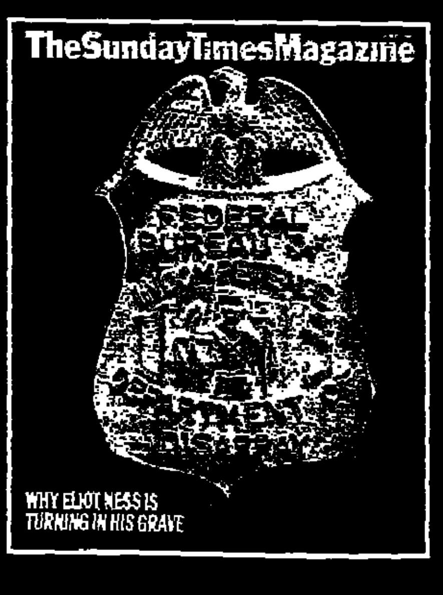
Residents and visitors to the *Costa Smeralda* (*Emerald Coast*) over the past four decades have included Princess Margaret — who allegedly first took refuge there to get over her love affair with Group Captain Peter Townsend — the Princess of Wales, King Juan Carlos of Spain and the Khashoggis. Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian media tycoon and former Prime Minister, also owns properties on the island.

But the Costa Smeralda development is controlled jointly by the Aga Khan's company, Fimpar, and the American hotel chain ITT Sheraton, grouped together as Ciga Immobiliare Sardinia. According to island gossip, the Aga Khan's real motive for withdrawing is that he overextended himself, buying up too many hotels and villas at a time when he was making losses in the tourism business and paying for a divorce from his wife, the Begum Salimah, the former model Sarah Crocker Poole.

According to *Corriere della Sera*, ITT Sheraton have bought up shares in Ciga Sardinia, threatening to "reduce the Aga Khan to a marginal role in the empire he created".

The Aga Khan's version, however, is that he is fed up with stonewalling by the Sardinian authorities over his "master plan" for new development, first outlined 18 years ago.

"I will still come to Porto Cervo, but from now on only for holidays, as a visitor," he said yesterday. The Aga Khan's yacht, *Shergar*, which makes words like opulent seem inadequate, is expected to remain a regular star turn at the Porto Cervo Yacht Club.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Chimps turn on the girl power

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

FEMALE chimpanzees are not as docile and egalitarian as they appear. Behind the net curtains of chimp society, they are as interested in social status as any housewife on an executive housing estate.

They have a clearly defined hierarchy, and those at the top produce more babies, and healthier ones, than those at the bottom.

The findings, from a study in *Science* by Jane Goodall and colleagues in Gombe National Park in Tanzania, indicate that female chimps are less dependent on males as a source of status, and compete subtly for dominance without acts of overt aggression.

So subtle is this competition that it has gone undetected for 37 years, the time that Dr Goodall and colleagues have been observing the chimpanzees. But the females do not beat their chests, declare war on other females, or engage in any of the other blatant and aggressive male behaviour.

The only way the hierarchy could be detected was by the occasional "pant-grunt", a sign of subservience. For 22 years the team, which also included Drs Anne Pusey and Jennifer Williams, recorded the direction of each of the pant-grunts — that is, which female was admitting her social inferiority to which rival. This enabled them to sort them into high, middle and low-ranking groups.

They then compared the ranking with the number of babies the chimpanzees had, their survival, and the age at which the females infants reached sexual maturity.

This showed that females at the top had more infants, and those they did lived longer than those lower down. One reason for this is that infants of low-ranking females are sometimes snatched and killed by the higher-ranking ones.

The research changes the picture of chimpanzee society, says Dr Williams. "Before, it looked like chimpanzee communities were a male construct and females were stuck in a bad position ... now it looks like they have a lot more control than we thought."

Leading article, page 21

WORLD SUMMARY

Holbrooke settles row over Bosnian envoys

Britain yesterday gave a cautious welcome to the announcement in Sarajevo that new Bosnian ambassadors will be selected to represent all ethnic groups (Michael Binyon writes). But the ban imposed this week on dealing with the current Bosnian chargé d'affaires in London is not to be lifted immediately. Britain will hold consultations with allies and international negotiators in Bosnia. News that the three members of Bosnia's collective presidency had ended their quarrel over envoys was given by Richard Holbrooke, the American negotiator.

Slave-ring arrest in Mexico

Mexico City: Police have arrested the suspected ringleader of a group that trafficked in deaf Mexicans and forced them to work in America for slave wages, a federal spokesman said. More than 60 deaf Mexican immigrants were found in New York, Chicago and Detroit last month. *(Reuter)*

Elvis statue 'starts to weep'

Deurne, Netherlands: A professional Elvis Presley impersonator claims his statue of "the King" has started to weep. Toon Nieuwenhuisen, 46, takes visitors to a dimly-lit bedroom to see a white, plaster bust of Elvis, right, who died 20 years ago this month, with tears seemingly running down its cheeks. He says they are "tears of joy. He is crying for all his fans around the world." *(Reuter)*

No more waiting for Godot

Hanover: A mother won a year-long fight to name her son Godot when a court ruled that a city official was wrong to refuse to add it to his other names, Max and Geronimo, on the birth certificate. It overturned a lower court ruling that Godot was not a first name but "a fantastical literary name". *(AFP)*

OJ Simpson to keep piano

Santa Monica: O. J. Simpson won a preliminary court ruling to keep a baby grand piano seized as part of a $33.5 million (£22 million) wrongful death judgment as it belonged to his mother. He will continue to use a $40,000 Ford Expedition car she claims to have leased until its ownership is resolved. *(AP)*

Comoros separatists protest

Mutsamudu, Comoros: Separatists on the breakaway Comoros island of Anjouan set fire to the house of a government minister and chased politicians and soldiers. In Fomboni, Moheli island's main town, secessionists declared a general strike and marched through the streets to demand "total independence". *(AFP)*

3

SP41/col 3b

Sharp-tongued voice of Polish Government attracts torrents of controversy

Hiss of the anchor woman

WARSAW FILE
by ROGER BOYES

POLAND'S floods have gushed into the middle of an election campaign. The result is fierce feuding over negligence, slip-shod rescue work and the alleged anti-government bias of state television.

At the eye of the storm is a former television anchor woman, Aleksandra Jakubowska. The 40-year-old press spokeswoman is a pugnacious journalist who speaks her own mind as well as that of her boss, Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, the Prime Minister. Her latest contretemps is with the Government she is supposed to represent. When her deputy criticised television coverage of the floods, which played down government attempts to organise help, she promptly fired him as spokesman for relief operations. Leszek Miller, the second most powerful man in government, told her to reinstate him and to resign herself, and in effect asked her: "Who's side are you on?"

The truth is that Ms Jakubowska is so independent-minded it is difficult to tell. Every government has a face and a voice — the tone and shape of which often determine the success of a leader. Ms Jakubowska's bespectacled broad-faced features, haystack hairstyle and gruff putdowns are tied up with the future of the left-wing Polish coalition. Despite the resignation calls, there is little doubt she will stay — the election is too close.

Now Ms Jakubowska has announced she will run for parliament on a left-wing ticket. She will stand, moreover, for an Opole constituency — one of the worst affected cities in the submerged Oder region. Ms Jakubowska will no longer have to bite her tongue. She will spell trouble for any government.

There is no denying her pluckiness. She reported fairly the 1989 round-table negotiations for the main news channel of communist-run television. After communism collapsed, she became the chief news anchor woman, and when her boss was fired she resigned with him. She started and edited a girls' magazine until the post-communists came to power in 1995. Then she became the voice of Jozef Oleksy, the Prime Minister, and his successor, Mr Cimoszewicz. She openly criticised almost anything that caused her offence. "Everything I say is in agreement with what the Prime Minister thinks — at least in terms of content — although the form has turned out differently," she said.

The right-wing opposition, briefly united, looks as if it could topple the post-communists. If it does, Ms Jakubowska will be blamed.

PIOTR WALCZAK

Aleksandra Jakubowska: her no-nonsense outspoken style is likely to cause trouble for whoever wins the general election next month

Nobility takes on Uncle Sam

STRANGE sight of the week: angry, disillusioned aristocrats picketing the US Embassy in Warsaw. After the war the Communists confiscated all aristocratic property. The Americans bought the bomb-damaged Czetwertynski Palace and flattened it to make way for an ugly modern building which became one of the largest CIA stations in Central Europe. Now members of the nobility have gathered in Warsaw from Canada, Belgium and France to put the squeeze on the Americans. Assorted counts and princesses applauded loudly when Prince Albert Czetwertynski strode past the Marine guards to demand compensation and an explanation from Washington.

Russian ire rises over toppled idols

POLAND and Russia are at loggerheads over a statue. The Torun town council has ripped down a 40ft-high monument to the Soviet soldiers who liberated Poland from Nazi rule (and who imposed their own miserable regime).

The Russian Ambassador has protested and the Belarus envoy has joined in. Poland, they say, is obliged under a 1994 treaty to preserve the graves and monuments of the fallen Soviet Army — tens of thousands died on Polish soil and 300 of them were buried next to the Torun monument.

The city councillors, not at all fazed, say that the bodies have been transferred to a military cemetery and the statue does not figure on a list of protected monuments.

Other statues have been ripped down elsewhere. The township of Prudnik demolished a statue in its centre, saying that "the 'Red Army came not as liberators but as plunderers and rapists". The Torun case has made an even stronger impact on the Russians. Moscow fears that it is the beginning of a new era of disrespect for Russians in Poland now that Warsaw is on course for Nato membership.

Italy stops hunting of small birds

Rome: The Centre-Left Italian Government yesterday bowed to pressure from environmentalists and anti-hunting campaigners and backed down over plans to allow the hunting of small birds in three Italian regions (Richard Owen writes).

Earlier this week the Cabinet decided to allow the hunting of finches and several other species in Tuscany, Lombardy and Emilia Romagna. But Edo Ronchi, the Environment Minister and a leading Green Party member, dissented. The Greens said they would protest to the European Commission.

Under EU rules, the hunting of birds other than game birds is only allowed if it can be shown that they pose a threat to crops, human health or air safety. A government spokesman said Italy would "comply with EU norms and directives".

State court halts Bonn order for cull of cattle linked to Britain

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

A court threw Bonn's BSE policy into question yesterday after it banned the further slaughter of cattle which are condemned only because they have been linked to British herds.

The administrative court in the state of Schleswig-Holstein ruled that the culling order imposed by Jochen Borchert, the Agriculture Minister, earlier this year contravenes breeding legislation.

The judges concluded that there was insufficient proof that the threatened cattle, derived from herds in known BSE-infected countries — Britain and Switzerland — were carrying the disease and it was inadmissible to kill them merely to allay consumer fears.

But the Agriculture Ministry in Bonn said culling would continue, while confirming that no trace of BSE had been found in any of the cattle slaughtered so far.

In any case the ruling, which may be followed by other states, comes too late for many breeders as 4,700 of the 6,180 animals under suspicion are already dead. Almost half Schleswig-Holstein's 438 British cattle have been culled.

Hans Wiesen, the state's Agriculture Minister, said he did not intend to challenge the ruling and confirmed that all planned culls would be suspended.

The court said that in the majority of cases the transfer of BSE, or "mad cow" disease, was caused by infected cattle feed and had not been passed from mother to calf. That accounted for a few cases but did not lead to an entire herd contracting the disease. The judges also ruled that the culling order was in contravention of laws which state that animals may only be slaughtered when there is positive evidence that they pose a risk to the food chain.

The cull was ordered after a scare in February involving a BSE-infected cow whose origins were uncertain and which may have been smuggled into Germany from Britain.

The culling order has angered many farmers who face financial ruin. Several have filed lawsuits, seeking to block the order.

The court's ruling was welcomed by an anti-cull action group. Mechthild Oertel, a spokeswoman for the group, appealed to all states to take note of the decision.

The court's ruling was issued in a lawsuit brought by a local breeder. One of his herd, which was born in Britain in 1986 but has been in Germany since 1988, was on the condemned list because her owner could not prove conclusively that there were no traces of BSE in her bloodline.

Bonn's claim that Germany is "BSE-free" was called into question after the slaughter of the infected cow showed that she had been admitted into the country with falsified papers and identity tag. Since the emergency culling order was rushed through parliament, courts throughout the country have been challenging its legitimacy, faced with individual suits brought by farmers.

In a handful of cases individual cows have been spared, but the court's ruling is the first to extend beyond the boundaries of an individual case to change legislation in an entire state.

Ireland's 'mad cow' discovery squanders years of research

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TWENTY years of internationally acclaimed research into milk yields has been jeopardised in Ireland after the disclosure yesterday that the government-owned dairy herd is infected with BSE.

More than 300 cows bred since the 1970s, or imported to produce more and better milk, will be destroyed after a four-year-old cow was diagnosed with BSE. The error will cost millions of pounds to rectify and destroy much of the work done by scientists at the Teagasc research farm in Fermoy, Co Cork.

The £750,000 prime dairy herd has been bred over the past 20 years to analyse the lineage and genetics, of cows. The resulting information was used for a range of tests and commercial experiments, the main thrust being the production of more milk at less cost. But biochemists at the plant have also produced "designer" milk that gives protection against heart disease. The annual £3 million research bill is funded by the Agriculture Department, the European Union and milk sales.

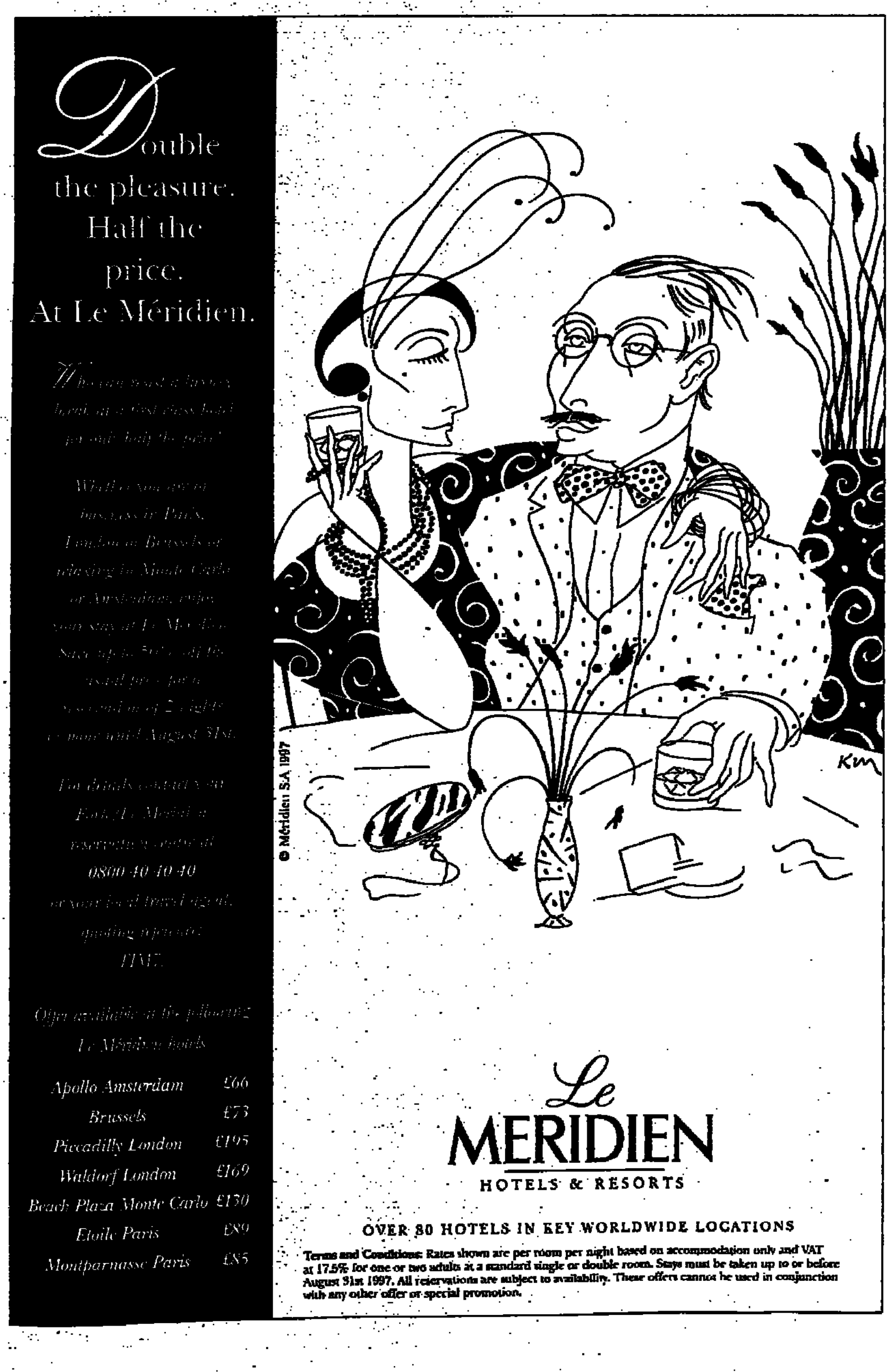
Kevin O'Farrell, head of the Teagasc dairy production centre, said the 144 staff had been devastated by discovery of BSE in the herd. Under Irish legislation, when a single case of BSE is discovered the entire herd has to be slaughtered, regardless of whether it is being used for research or farming.

He said: "At this stage, we do not know what the full consequences will be and how badly it will affect our research programmes but it is very serious. It could take quite a few years to get over."

The infected animal was born on the farm, as was its mother. The animal is believed to have contracted BSE while feeding as a calf on manufactured meal. An investigation is being carried out to establish how the infected feed was used at the farm.

The discovery of BSE on a government-run farm will seriously hamper Ireland's attempts to promote itself as comparatively free of BSE. So far this year, 42 cases of BSE have been detected compared with a high of 73 last year. Since 1989, 231 animals have been found with BSE.

A number of Middle Eastern countries banned imports of Irish live cattle after the 1995 House of Commons statement admitting a link between BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. The Irish Government fears that the Cork episode could destroy negotiations with Egypt to lift an embargo later this month on Irish beef.



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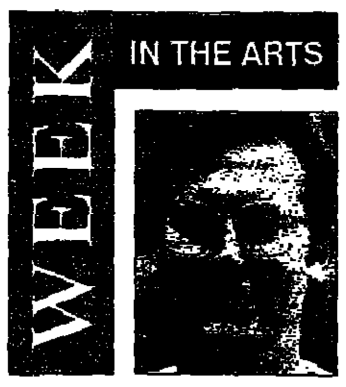
Edinburgh's spirit is now just a ghost



RICHARD MORRISON

There was a time when the very words "Edinburgh Festival" were enough to quicken the sluggish pulse and plant a glint in the *rheumiest* eye. They evoked a wondrous three weeks during which an entire city — *and* not just any city, but the most sober-sided metropolis on Planet Celt — *transmogrified* into a giant playground, a gargantuan prep-*school dorm, a colossal booze-up*, a non-stop cabaret and (so it was reputed) a frenetic love-in, all at the same time — though I always seemed to miss out on the last bit.

When I first covered the festival, 20 years ago, people really did *rush up and shout*: "Get down to Venue 82, man; there's an Estonian *Troilus* that will *blow your mind*." It was like a parody of Sixties campus life multiplied a thousandfold: a celebration of wit, anarchy, art, sex, smut, poseurs *and pseuds*; and a total rejection of the Three Cursed Cs: common-*sense, capitalism*, conformity. True, on the stroke of September 1 *the participants all turned back* into pumpkins of respectability — junior doctors, trainee accoun-*tants, apprentice solicitors*. But in August, hey, we were free spirits.

The question is: have I grown old and grey, or has the Edinburgh Festival? Perhaps, among the 9,644 *performers said to be* trekking to the Scottish capital for the *three-week culture blitz* that starts tomorrow, there may be some wide-eyed newcomers who will be as mesmerised as I was, two decades ago. Good luck to them. But the sad fact is that nobody old enough to have ob-*served the changes in this mega*-jamboree will greet a new instalment with anything approaching glee.

Why's that? Well, as that Edinburgh resident Robert Louis Stevenson noted: "To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive." The trouble with the festival is that *it stopped* travelling hopefully years ago. The names on the handbills may change, but the *shows, the formats, the* drearily-engineered fake-scandals and synthetic bust-ups seem eternally fixed, like a set of particularly dull deities that require annual homage. The real "buzz", particularly about ground-breaking new work, long ago moved elsewhere.

You can't ignore Edinburgh, because it is so big: possibly five times the size of its nearest international competitors. But you can predict exactly how it will unwind each year, from the grand *Usher Hall concerts to the strenuously* zany Fringe revues. And in the arts, predictability is death.

Last year George Steiner mischievously suggested that, to celebrate its 50th birthday, the festival should abolish itself. Now *that* would be novel. I don't go that far. But I do think that "bulk is beautiful" isn't the best motto for any cultural organisation.

Perhaps change will come with Scottish devolution. Many Scots already resent so much media attention, funding and sponsorship being sucked into one three-week event populated mostly by English and American punters and performers, particularly when *such fundamental national assets* as Scottish Opera and Scottish Ballet totter along so precariously.

The problem about reform, though, is that the festival has become a bit like Hal, the wilful computer in *2001: A Space Odyssey. Man has lost control of its* destiny. Of course, there have been valiant efforts by talented individuals at the helm. In many ways Brian McMaster has been an exemplary director of the "official" programme, even if his pet thespi-*ans (Peter Stein, Mark Morris for* the sixth successive year) are starting to seem over-familiar.

But the official programme is just a tiny part of the Edinburgh Experience. It is the overwhelming feeling of drowning in some soulless, shapeless custard ocean of culture that makes the festival so unappealing. Where is the sense of mutual purpose linking film festival, book festival, television festival, the crassly self-important comedy venues, the sprawl of *minimally-attended amateur* theatre on the Fringe, and the "high art" of the festival proper? The answer is, there is none. Just a lot of coteries doing their own thing.

And who benefits from this cultural overkill? *Journalists*, mostly. An incredible 1,400 hacks will be accredited by the Fringe this year. Good grief, the First World War was covered *by fewer reporters*. I wonder how many will be brave enough to tell their readers (and their *editors*) that the festival is overblown, overhyped and, yes, quite farcically over-reported.

Oh yes, and the Scottish tourist trade allegedly benefits. Yet Edinburgh surely cannot be proud of the face it *shows* the world in August. Its handsome streets are abominably *overcrowded, its* hotels disgracefully overpriced.

But what of the audience? Fifty years ago, when the festival was launched in a glow of postwar *ideals*, Edinburgh's Lord Provost spoke of it aspiring to "refresh souls and reaffirm belief *in things* other than the material". Naive words? Perhaps. Even 20 years *ago, however*, I remember finding a spiritual refreshment and intellectual stimulation in *Edinburgh* that could be found nowhere else.

Today, virtually all the main festival and fringe attractions also tour elsewhere. Other than offering a *bigger package* than anywhere else, Edinburgh has lost all uniqueness. So what is its point? Is it, like one or two other "revered" British cultural institutions, there because *it's* there? Or will our critics be reporting events of such profound *significance* over the next few days that, in three weeks' time, we will gasp: "Gosh, *how diminished* life would be without the Edinburgh Festival"? I long for such a miracle, but harbour no great expectations.

THEATRE: Classic political sleaze with a gay subtext; England swings like a dead weight; doing Shakespeare proud

Wilde suggestion of a family outing

An Ideal Husband
Theatre Royal, Haymarket

Peter Hall's long-lasting production, in and out of the West End *on several occasions* since 1992 and just back from a Broadway *triumph, returns for a seriously* we-mean-it-this-time final time, and is well worth seeing a second time, and certainly a first.

The play was written in the months before Wilde was destroyed by Victorian English morality, and its plot reflects his immediate circumstances. As shameless Mrs Cheveley blackmails Sir Robert Chiltern, so blackmailers were hounding Wilde. *Chiltern's offence is* to have sold a Cabinet secret to an international financier, *£100,000 being his reward, making* him the equivalent of a multi-millionaire today.

The revelation of sleaze in high places gives the play its tart contemporary relevance, but what Hall has also perceived is the play's long-neglected subtext, one of the most convincing and astonishing re-evaluations I can remember. It *allows the play to arrive at a relatively* happy ending — something hard to justify *otherwise, except by the conventions of* melodrama — by sorting out what is going on underneath.

Simon Ward, new to the role of Chiltern, may be called a tower of ivory by his priggish ignoramus of a wife (ie, she thinks him a model of all the virtues, only loving him because of this) but his screwed-up face, tormented even before the past overwhelms him, shows the physical cost of deception. Self-deception *in his case, because his social eminence* rests on a double lie.

When we hear the reverberating thrill in his voice as he speaks of the dead financier, we know that his real self approves of his crime. But he cannot even speak of his other secret, any more than Wilde was able to write of his similar one. Transparently, Chiltern and affable Lord *Goring want or wanted to be lovers*, and once our attention has been turned to this, *the script supports it all the way, from the* Chilterns' childless marriage to Goring's eventual betrothal to Chiltern's sister, the closest he can get to his actual love.

Martin Shaw's plump and plummy *Goring takes a while to get used to*, in fact until one realises that this is not a mere *wheeze to put Wilde on stage. His lips that* purse, the cheeks that puff, the eyebrows that comment, oh so quizzically, on the double-entendre: it is a subtle, highly entertaining portrayal of an increasingly likeable person, even if, like several other cast members, Shaw can inexplicably turn from addressing a fellow actor to addressing us. Even Kate O'Mara, the *new Mrs Cheveley, relishing success with* triumphantly wide smiles, allows herself this old-fashioned trick.

Perhaps the long run has coarsened some of the acting. Details are over-emphasised, but Michael Denison, superbly got up to look the elder statesman, never overdoes the emphasis, his every scene a lesson in how to generate laughter *by the throwaway line*.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Hey Jude, what happened?

Carnaby Street
Arts

Carnaby Street is a tacky, depressing place *these days. When I last* walked down it, tourists were photographing chest-wear plastered with "I May Be Fat but You're Ugly" and similarly uplifting slogans. There were also a lot of baseball caps, postcards of London buses and Union Jacks. Where had *all the glamour gone*? The same place as Pete Seeger's *flowers, I guess*.

But the not-altogether-intentional message of James Hall's show is that Carnaby Street was a pretty gruesome alley even in its fashionable heyday. "I wish I was there, back in the Sixties," sing the cast, wiggling and bopping while coloured lights pulsate and rock music throbs. But what actually *emerges from a series of* "grooves", as the programme *calls the songs*, is a banal, semi-demi-comprehensible tale of a would-be McCartney or Jagger called Jude.

When Kevin Curtin, who *plays the role, first comes to* London from the North in search of fame, fortune and other such incidentals, he cuts a pretty unappetising figure. But that only excites Michelle Connolly's Lady Jane, a lanky aristo in a shimmering silver sheath. They land up half-*starving in a squat on* Carnaby Street itself. He gets a "day job". *I never twigged* what, and hits her. She overdoses on heroin and dies. Their child is taken into care.

How, then, does Jude transmogrify into a superstar and eventually into a showbiz knight with clipped hair and a tie? Ask me another. Narrative *clarity is not at all Hall's thing*. Perhaps the lad had a hit with a song called *Transistor Radio*; perhaps not. At any rate, he ends up in the 1990s wrapped sexily around a member of a group called the Rock Bottoms, only to discover that she is his long-lost daughter. Delicacy of taste is not Hall's thing, either.

So what is his strength? Verve and brio, I suppose. The audience, which *appeared to* consist largely of paunchy and/or *matronly survivors* from the Sixties themselves, hooted and clapped along with his brash, energetic tootles. It is difficult to judge the lyrics, for only occasionally does a line or half-line emerge intact from the heavily miked blur. I did understand that "love is *gravity*", "*Clapton is gone*" and even "this is a land of hope and glory, heavenly angels hear our story"; but the reason why a transvestite called Lily the Pink was moved to play lubricious games with an inflatable rubber guitar utterly eluded me.

At another point several members of Terry John Bates's admirably hard-working, hard-singing cast don Ruritanian uniforms and line up behind a drum inscribed with the Sergeant Pepper logo. Meanwhile, other performers parade with placards bearing *photos of Einstein, Marilyn* Monroe, Laurel and Hardy and *Brando. Does* this successfully evoke Carnaby Street and the rock scene of 30 years ago? No. Nor does anything else except, perhaps, the programme.

Among other things, this describes how Mars Bars briefly came to be thought of *as aphrodisiacs, and tells you* what a fuzz box is. I devoured it avidly. I wish I could say as much for the show itself.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL

Martin Shaw and Kate O'Mara in the latest incarnation of Peter Hall's production

Packed with good things

DAN CRAWFORD, the maverick artistic director of the King's Head in Islington, has produced yet another miracle of pocket engineering. A staggering cast of 22 *dons* lavish Restoration costumes for a *full-blooded production of* **Romeo and Juliet** on a stage *barely six feet deep* and not a lot wider.

It's the casting that gives his production its seductive charm. Old *hands* such as Thelma Ruby as Juliet's garrulous Nurse and Oliver Bradshaw as an elderly, drooling Capulet give thrusting youths Stash Kirkbride (Mercutio) and Andy Laycock (Tybalt) a believable framework for saucy, impatient *youth and its fickle obsessions*. Not least because the foolishness and prejudice of age is etched into their performances.

Despite the fact that he does not have a single stage credit to his name, teenage icon Sean Maguire, a star of TV's *Dangerfield, makes a dreamy* fist of Romeo. This hero bewitches himself, and by proxy Juliet, with his lush poetry. It's a thoroughly self-conscious experiment. You can almost reach out and touch the irony when Maguire *turns* on his heel, spies Juliet on her balco-*ny three feet away, and* launches into "But soft! What *light through yonder window* breaks . . ."

Kirkbride's Mercutio, armed with perfect Bristol Old Vic enunciation and a pair of leather trousers, provides a sonorous antidote to Romeo's "dribbling love".

Katey Crawford Kastin's Juliet is the awkward, peevish and feisty object of Romeo's desire. She is cast almost to age, but Kastin hurdles the poetry with deceptive ease. *As* with Maguire there is a per-*ceptible and deliciously* ambiguous distance between what she speaks and what she might feel. Maguire fills the gap with irony; Kastin fills it with sentiment.

Despite the expediency of Crawford's production and these performances the second *half of the play slips inexorably* towards melodrama. This is as much Shakespeare's fault as the director's, and it does not detract from what must be one of the most impressive and entertaining traffic jams *on the London stage*.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Hotter than July

JAZZ

IF ONLY our summer weather was as reliable as the exuberant Cuban bands who have *made* Ronnie Scott's their second home. A 70-*minute set by Los Van Van*, the orchestra led by the bass player *Juan Formell*, generates more heat than we enjoyed in the whole of last month.

Formell formed the inaugural line-up in 1969, which makes the 16-piece even older *than those other regular Soho visitors*, Irakere. Like Chucho Valdes's group, Formell and *his musicians are beginning* to make an impression on American audiences after years of political isolation: in fact, the orchestra made its first tour of America only a matter of months ago.

For jazz lovers there is not quite as much to relish in Los Van Van's *repertoire* as there is in Irakere's. While the latter soar into glittering bop-inspired arrangements that leave ample room for soloists, Los Van Van are very much a dance phenomenon. Although songs such as *La Habana No Aguanta Mas* may cast a *sceptical eye on social issues*, the message is always dressed in the most festive of colours.

With the trombones and percussion locked into salsa-like patterns, and three singers sharing the vocal duties, the potent ensemble playing careers from one up-tempo *anthem to the next* with barely a pause.

It is an absorbing spectacle, the impassive Formell picking sinuous riffs from his slim upright bass while his singers pluck equally sinuous female revellers from the crowd. The only disappointment lay in a *sound mix that did little justice* to the strings, a central ingredient of the charanga tradition.

The flautist fared a little better, but only just. Then again, no one comes to Los Van Van to hear chamber music. Perspiring into the early hours, Frith Street will be doing a decent imperson-*ation of Havana-on-Thames* for the next fortnight.

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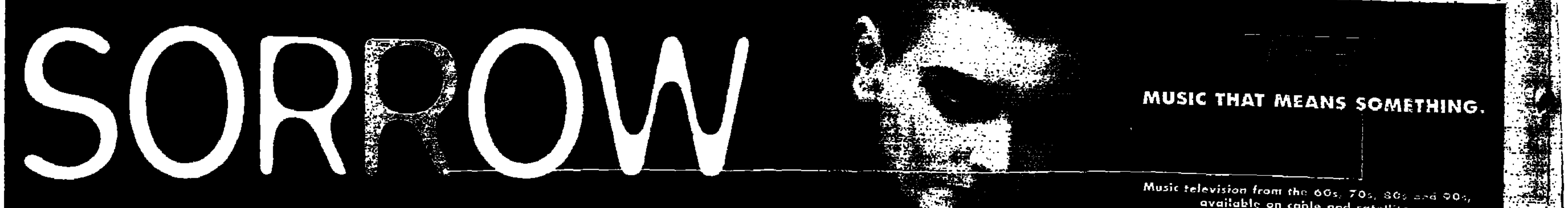
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Birth of a classic: Leonard Bernstein rehearses the original Broadway production's "bunch of amateurs" in 1957, with his lyricist Stephen Sondheim at the piano

BBC PROMS

A voice to die for

BBCSSO/Brabbins
Albert Hall/Radio 3

THERE are occasions — one in ten years, if you are very lucky — when a voice sings out of the silence, and you know that it will take its place in the history of song itself. And even if fortune should not continue to smile on the singer, the single performance will linger on, having revealed to the listener something unique in the work itself.

Such a voice is the lyric coloratura soprano of Inger Dam-Jensen, 1993's Cardiff Singer of the World, and now surpassing all expectations. In a Prom of Richard Strauss and Mahler, she incarnated the season's theme of the natural voice of folk song metamorphosing into the sophistication of art song. The poet Clemens Brentano was the link: he helped to compile the *Das Knaben Wunderhorn* collection which Mahler rifled for his Fourth Symphony, and he wrote the fanciful verse which Strauss set in four orchestral songs.

Dam-Jensen is already proving herself a Straussian to die for: her technical assurance, rose-silver timbre and fine-tuned sensibility enable her to flesh out Strauss's music as if she had been living deep inside the composer's own imagination. There was an entire lullaby within the single word "Schlaf" in *Säusle, liebe Myrthe*, and the very quintessence of song in the final cry of "Dein Lied!" in *Als mir dein Lied erklang*.

Each word is scented out and tasted in its musical setting, with the voice recreating thrillingly the kinetic art Strauss fashioned from words such as fountain, cloud, moon. This sensitivity came into its own in *Das himmlische Leben*, which lights the end of Mahler's Fourth Symphony.

The presence of Dam-Jensen was, indeed, the salvation of the performance. Despite the fact that the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra is on fine form, and that Martyn Brabbins, its associate principal conductor, was trying very hard indeed, the symphony was never quite at ease with itself. Some disastrous miscalculations of tempo and balance made the "unearthly joy" of the first movement elusive. And in the second movement's bittersweet dance of death, tension substituted for intensity. Until he has penetrated far deeper under the composer's skin, Brabbins should approach Mahler with great caution.

HILARY FINCH

Give our regards to Broadway

Forty years after *West Side Story* exploded into New York, a former Shark is staging a faithful British revival. **Christopher Bowen** reports

In today's youth-dominated music industry, where slick, high-powered videos are pumped out like so much visual fast food, the notion of a musical entertainment set against a backdrop of urban violence hardly seems out of the ordinary. Dress a bunch of kids in Levi 501s and baseball jackets, play out the action on the steamy streets of the Bronx or South Central LA, and the scene could be set for another Michael Jackson vehicle.

But what many viewers may not realise when Jackson grabs his crotch in that irritating manner and pirouettes in a basement garage, or the boy/girl band of the moment strut their stuff down an alleyway, is that the choreographers of these MTV extravaganzas are all paying tribute to — or, depending on your point of view, ripping off — a Broadway show first performed in 1957.

It is almost exactly 40 years since *West Side Story* exploded on to the stage of New York's Winter Garden theatre with what Walter Kerr, critic of the *Herald Tribune*, described as "a catastrophic roar". With *My Fair Lady* and *The Most Happy Fella* packing them in at neighbouring houses, Broadway audiences must have been ill-prepared for the uncompromising grittiness of *West Side Story*.

A modern-day version of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* it may be, but the musical is not merely a decorative paraphrase of the Elizabethan account; rather, it uses the play as a framework for a tragic love story told within an environment of racial prejudice, gang warfare and America's emerging teen culture.

In less astute hands the weight of social comment might have sunk such a project, but with Jerome Robbins as director/choreographer, music by Leonard Bernstein, a script by Arthur Laurents and lyrics by the young Stephen Sondheim, *West Side Story* represents the collaborative product of some of Broadway's most outstanding theatrical talents.

By all accounts the show was a jolting work, not only for its theme but for its advanced use of dance within the framework of a musical play. Until *West Side Story* dancers had to be content with providing chorus line back-up for a star soloist; suddenly an entire company was required to dance, sing and act its way through a piece.

In 1957 that meant casting unknowns and inexperienced performers — or, as the original producer, Harold Prince, put it, "a bunch of amateurs". And the show is still a tricky one to cast, as Alan Johnson discovered when he came to direct the current British revival, which opens today at Plymouth's Theatre Royal before embarking on an extensive UK tour.

"It is always a little difficult," says Johnson during a break in rehearsals. "What you want are people who are very well trained but who don't show it when they dance. They have to have a certain relaxed street quality to their movement. Jerry Robbins always said he never wanted to see the steps, he wanted to see the intention."

Johnson joined the first Broadway production as one of the Sharks in 1958, graduating to the role of A-Rab and the show's "dance captain" with the international touring company which came to Europe two years later. Now established as one of America's most successful choreographers and directors, Johnson has been responsible for staging "at least 20" carbon-copy revivals of Robbins's production.

"Originally there were five of us approved to recreate Jerry's work," he says, "including Howard Jeffrey, the first assistant on the show, and Lee Becker Theodore, who played Anybodys. The others are all gone now. I guess I get it by default 'cos I'm still here."

Why would a Tony and Emmy award-winning choreographer, who has worked in Hollywood (his long association with Mel Brooks began with the *Springtime For Hitler* routine in *The Producers*) and on Broadway (with stellar leading ladies like Shirley MacLaine, Chita Rivera and Bernadette Peters), choose to recreate someone else's work?

"First of all, because I think it's better for the show. Directing is always fun, but every time I go back to *West Side Story* I marvel at what Jerry accomplished, particularly in the way so much of the story is told through movement. I could never do that better."

Johnson's respect and affection for the show is clear — this is his only re-staging; everything else he does is original work. As he directs the young cast through rehearsals in a Plymouth church hall, the sense of a Broadway heritage being passed on is palpable.

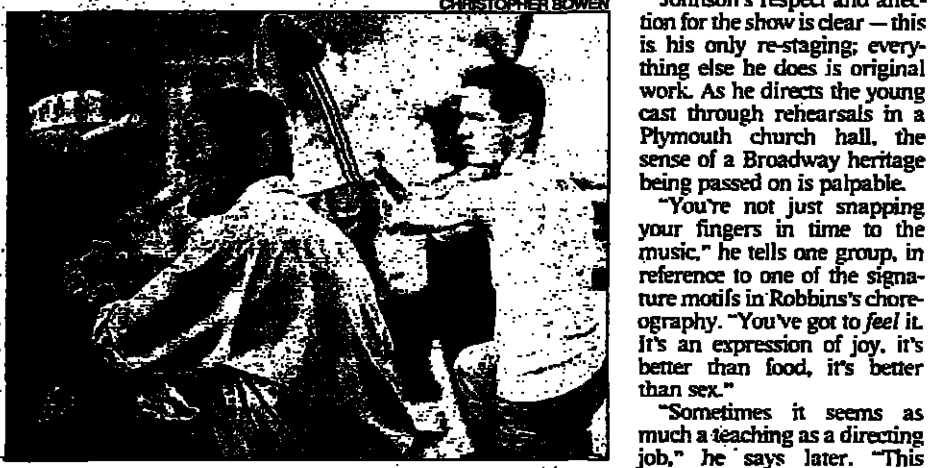
"You're not just snapping your fingers in time to the music," he tells one group, in reference to one of the signature motifs in Robbins's choreography. "You've got to *feel* it. It's an expression of joy, it's better than food, it's better than sex."

"Sometimes it seems as much a teaching as a directing job," he says later. "This generation of performers has grown up on television and the close-up, they don't know too much about the performance energy you need to communicate to an audience. But they'll get it."

Will 1990s audiences? Or will *West Side Story* be viewed today as just another period revival? "*Oklahoma!* is a period show," says Johnson. "*My Fair Lady* is a period show. But this show is a classic, and 40 years on people are still being moved by it."

Teenage love, inner-city violence, kids on the block: has anything really changed in the interval?

● *West Side Story is at the Theatre Royal Plymouth (01752 267222) until Aug 30, then on tour*



CHRISTOPHER BOWEN

Director Alan Johnson recreates the magic in Plymouth

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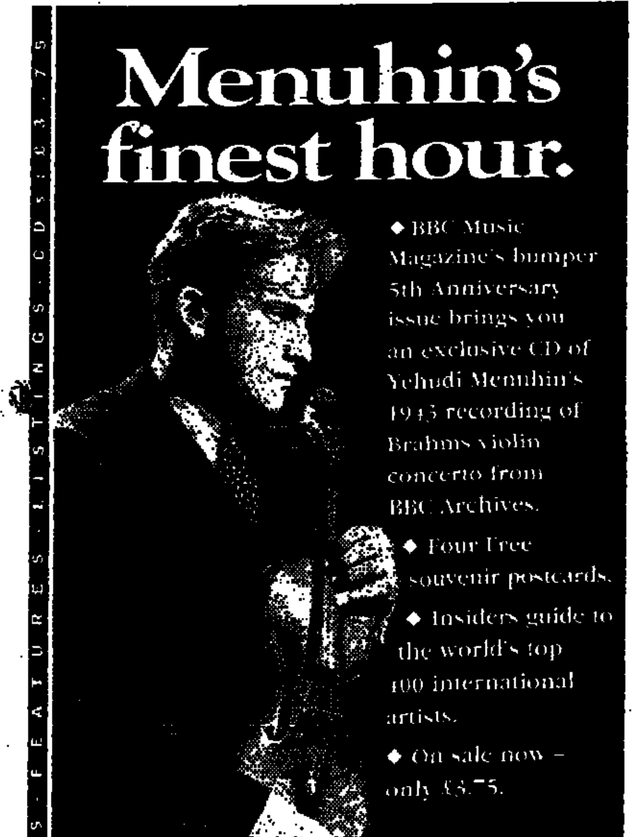

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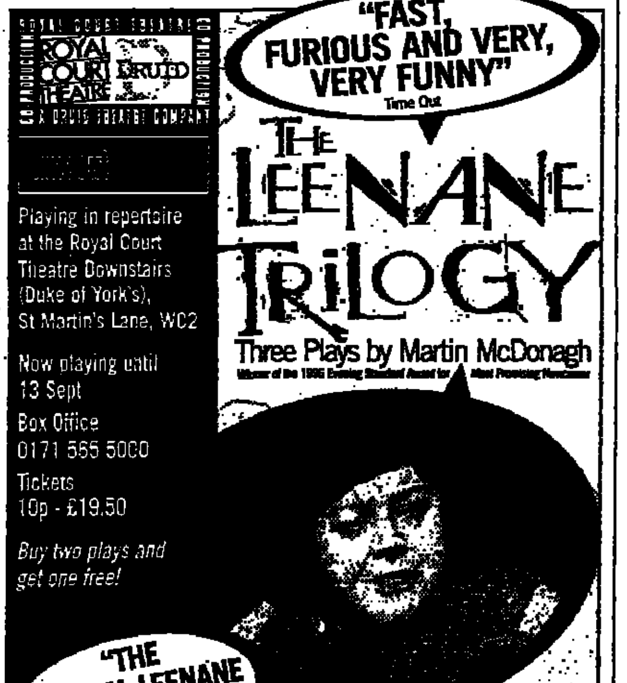

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Bollywood, batsmen and bowlers

Tunku Varadarajan on modern India's debt to cinema and cricket

All the world, it seems, has had its say on India these last few days, so why shouldn't I, India-born, a Child of Independence, fling down my four-annas' worth of scrutiny onto the mound of analysis, some of which has been banal, much of which has been nostalgic, almost all of which has been far too earnest.

There has been so much talk of the Mahatma and that man Nehru, of the ghastly Mrs G and her trite son Rajiv, of middle-class booms and poverty, of casteism, Hinduism, secularism, Gandhism. Enough of that, I say. It's time to talk of matters that have really shaped modern India and forged the identity of its people. It's time to talk of Indian cricket, and of the country's cinema.

If someone comes up to you and says "Look, modern India is held together by regular elections", don't believe him. If another writes that India is really a unit because everyone has a statue of the elephant-god Ganesh at home, or of the cowherd-god Krishna, react a little sceptically. Those gods are important, of course, but they divide people as much as unite them. No, modern India owes less to its politicians and gods than to its cricketers and film-stars. I will focus on two specific examples.

Why has India, so demonically "fissiparous" (a word beloved of the sub-continent's political scientists), held together for so long? Why have Indians — who speak so many languages, dress so differently and look so different from each other, and who were only brought together by the British — stayed together, their bonds in fact stronger today than they were at Independence?

Here is my answer: modern India has been held together largely by Kapil Dev and Amitabh Bacchan, the first a swashbuckling, moustachioed Punjabi cricketer who took more wickets than anyone in Test cricket and played with an abandon not seen since the age of sepia photographs, the second a long-limbed hero of the Bollywood screen, whose voice boomed while his fists flailed at the scum who would abduct his mother, assault his wife, destroy India's economy by smuggling out her gold, or poison her youth by peddling drugs. Both great men, as you can see, and both makers of modern India. I grew up with, and worshipped, both of them, for they gave millions of men, women and children their most vital political lesson in what it meant to be "an Indian".

Each time Kapil — he was known only as Kapil in that curious Indian way in which over-familiarity is the twin of reverence — went out to bat, people expected a *chhakka*, or six. And each time he hit a six, he cemented Madras to Chandigarh, Mysore to Calcutta. He came to be, as all India's cricketers are, a metaphor for the country. He was the face India showed to the world, his flailings with bat were his country's chosen form of expression. His inability to speak idiomatic English, too, helped to define an Indian counter-culture, one where Hindi-wallahs, Punjabi-speakers, Tamilians or Marathis could consign post-colonial India's Anglocentric cultural cringe firmly to the dustbin.

But Kapil, now retired, had a fragility that Indians loved, one which reflected their own tenuous grasp on success and well-being. A duck was often as likely as a six, just as he could be carted freely for runs as a bowler as often as he ran through sides.

Amitabh — that first name again — was different. He appealed to that part of the Indian imagination which craves indestructible heroes, the modern equivalents of the Pandavas from the *Mahabharata*, or of Lord Rama, who slew the demon Ravana. Most importantly, from the point of view of India's unity, Amitabh belonged to a "movement" more powerful than any political party: his filmic current ran across the length of the country, wedding people to a shared source of wonderment, to a shared idiom of make-believe, to a common body of Manichean discourse that transcended regional affiliation and, often, linguistic barriers. "We're all the same, *yaar*," was the message.

Cricket's role has been more subtle. Whereas Bollywood's films and message reached even the most remote of India's villages, cricket is a game played mainly in the cities. Yet its impact has been no less significant: in quickening the country's metropolitan pulse, Kapil and his merry band of men have fused India's cultural "city-states" so effectively that they will not now be easily disentangled. And cities, through history, have always led the countryside.

India's cricketers are gladiators now for a vast, expectant urban population, whose sense of self rests squarely on those who wear whites for the country. India's film-stars bear the weight of the sub-continent's long mythological tradition. Distanced from religion, however, they do not tear the country's people apart as the figures from older myths have tended to do. Kapil and Amitabh, what would India have done without them?

Clive Aslet says the Government is heaping gaffe upon gaffe in its dealings with the countryside

Beware smoke signals from the rural bonfire

New Labour has done an astonishing job in antagonising rural Britain in the short time it has been in office. Uncongenial though the slow-moving complexities of the shires may be to eager new politicians, anxious to make their mark, the Government would do well to turn its mind to the countryside. It is in danger of becoming a well in which the Government will accidentally let drop the golden opinions of the public.

Last month the rural population turned out in force for the Countryside Rally in Hyde Park, and may have gone home believing they had made their point. If anything could have been calculated to infuriate them, it was a review to limit the availability of shotguns and rifles. We now hear that that is exactly what the Government has launched.

Like Labour's amendment to the Firearms Act, rushed through on its taking office, which has all but destroyed the sport of pistol shooting, further restrictions to shotgun licences will do little to prevent the use of guns in crime. With so many handier and more devastating firearms at the villain's disposal, the era of sawn-off shotguns now seems almost quaint. But a review would penalise the rural community, for whom shooting is part of life.

Not only do country people think that the Government knows less about the countryside than they do about inner-city housing estates, but they fear the difference in mentality that they perceive between them and Westminster. They see politicians as dangerously susceptible to theories. Country people tend to be pragmatists, used to ordering their lives according to the experience of generations. Theoretically, it might seem sensible to prevent youngsters from shooting until they reach the age of consent. Presumably those who hold this view envisage a teenager with a shotgun as a more lethal equivalent of a two-year-old with a garden hose. The reality, though, is exactly the opposite. Shooting people enforce the rules of etiquette which govern their sport with a fearsomeness that David Blunkett and his team could learn from. The child — or indeed adult — who transgresses them is treated to a dose of humiliation that he or she is never likely to forget. As a result, the British safety record is far better than that of continental countries, regulated by age limits and compulsory examinations.

To initiate the gun review so soon after the Countryside Rally was probably just a gaffe — but it is stacking up with other gaffes. Perhaps it did not occur to Gordon Brown that his budgetary measures to raise the cost of motoring — through petrol, vehicle licence, and insurance — would discriminate against rural areas. But they will. Large parts of rural Britain are devoid of adequate public transport. Even the poorest people there will struggle to keep a car going, because they have no other means of reaching shops, schools, and work places. I am the first to agree with the growing consensus that, as a nation, we use our cars too much. But the Chancellor should have targeted commuters and other drivers for whom the car is a matter of choice, not necessity. Equally, it may delight the green lobby that half the roads programme has been cancelled, but it will not wear so well in many country areas.

Then there is BSE. Last month Jack Cunningham persuaded his colleagues in Europe that their standards in slaughtering should match ours, given that BSE does exist, probably at greatly undeclared levels, in partner countries. But it will be of no practical benefit to beef and dairy farmers, who now find — despite Labour's clamour for even greater culls when it was in Opposition — that the Government may not meet the full costs of compensation for the slaughter programme.

Largesse may appear to be on offer from John Prescott's regional development agencies, but they are a gift horse which country dwellers should look carefully in the mouth. "Regional" sounds good — but you can be sure that the money distributed will be to monolithic projects in big regional cities, not small-scale grants to help the village shop. As for the building of two million new homes on green-field sites in southern England, Nicholas Raynsford's ideas have caused such a furore that the Department of the Environment has been distancing itself from his proposals, emphasising that they have yet to obtain Cabinet approval. But once that approval has been obtained, what point will there be in remonstrating?.

Nor will the hunting issue go away. There is too much naivety among new Labour members, childishly open to persuasion by animal rights campaigns, for that. It is said that "the boil must be lanced", and from his verandah in Tuscany, Tony Blair must think how that can be done. The smoke already coming from the rural bonfire suggests the last thing it needs is more paraffin. A Royal Commission is his obvious escape route — though the blood of the hunting lobby is now up, and he might have difficulty (following Professor Patrick Bateson's report on stag hunting for the National Trust), in convincing them it would give their side a fair hearing.

To some country people, there was an irony about Mr Blair's recent initiatives in Northern Ireland. Just as he was struggling to tie the recalcitrant tendrils of sectarian opinion into the trellis of the peace process, new Labour boots were trampling over rural Britain's tender stems. No one would expect the Government to have an instinctive sympathy for country opinion, often coloured by the traditionalism and political incorrectness that they would like to eradicate, but if Mr Blair is to succeed as a one-nation Prime Minister he will have to turn opponents into friends.

Clive Aslet is Editor of Country Life

No better recipe for conflict

Labour is in too much of a hurry to reform the constitution, says **Max Beloff**

Labour has been in power for a hundred days. One might have thought that an incoming government with a large majority would have taken such issues as employment, the environment, social security, education or health care — to name only the most obvious — as its priority for action. Instead, the bulk of legislative time is being devoted to a series of constitutional "reforms", ill-digested and undebated and carried out at a pace that is impossible to justify and has no parallel in our long constitutional history.

For the more than 300 years that have elapsed since the "Glorious Revolution", the defining moment of the modern British state, there has been a constant evolution of the system towards what we know today; in the 18th century the development of the responsibility of the executive to the House of Commons; in the 19th and 20th centuries, the vast extensions of the franchise and the subordination of the Upper to the Lower House; in our own time the wide extensions of the role of central government in every aspect of the nation's life.

What is striking is both the flexibility of the institutions, some dating back to the Middle Ages, and the fact that all the major changes brought about by them were the subject of prolonged public debate among the political class of the day, and at times even among those excluded from the political process. Some of the country's best minds were devoted to the detailed consideration of proposals for change. None of this applies to the current proposals, whether for "devolution" to Scotland and Wales, for changes in the electoral system and the government of London, for changes in the composition of the House of Lords or for the incorporation into British law of a set of abstract principles originally enunciated for quite different purposes.

The support for including such measures in the Government's programme and in Parliament's timetable springs in part from intellectual fashions in certain influential quarters, in part from minority aspirations, and in part from their apparent lack of impact on national finance. When one asks for an explanation of how the whole thing hangs together one gets from the Lord Chancellor the reply that there is no need to worry since he chairs all the relevant Cabinet committees, and can be trusted to see that co-ordination is maintained. (see the article by Lord Irvine of Lairg in *The Times*, July 2).

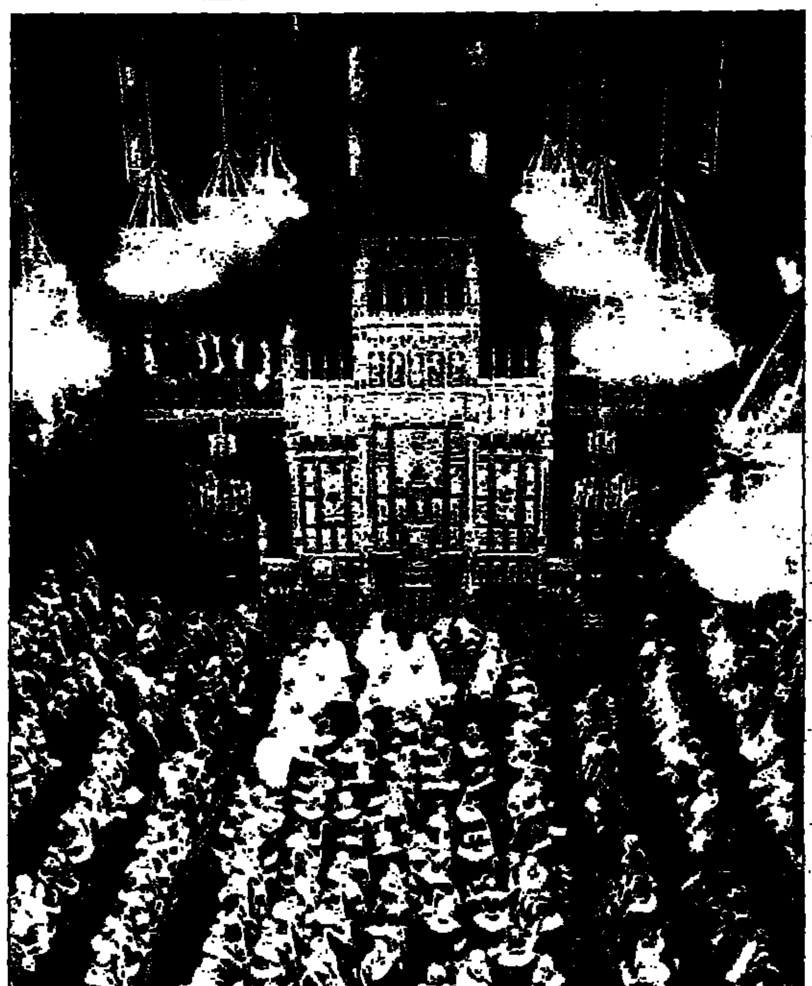
One can of course see one obvious outcome were all these measures to be enacted. We would have abandoned the flexibility conferred by the sovereignty of the Crown in Parliament to the rigidity of a "written constitution". It is sometimes said that we have never had a written constitution, but that betrays the widespread ignorance of English history, which is not the least disturbing outcome of our educational system. We have, in fact, had two: the Instrument of Government of 1653 and the Humble Petition and Advice of 1657. Neither worked to general satisfaction and England ended up subject to virtual military government, which only ended with the welcome restoration of Charles II. Without wishing to draw an exact parallel between the present holders of power and Cromwell and his major-generals, it is a period in the country's history best not forgotten.

None of this is to suggest that all constitutional change is to be deprecated. Some constitutional questions are unavoidable, though possibly insoluble. Northern Ireland comes to mind. But the only sound basis for meaningful change is a consideration of what is actually happening. If one considers recent decades, two obvious changes in the constitutional position are evident.

The most obvious, in the sense of its being easier to define, has been the passing of the law-making power of the UK Parliament to the institutions of the European Union and the transfer of the power to interpret our laws from our independent judiciary to courts at Strasbourg and Luxembourg. Since the impact of both these developments has implications for our domestic well-being as well as for our relations with other countries, a wise government would begin by seeing to what extent Parliament's powers and those of our judges can be restored.

Why this inquiry has not been embarked upon by any of the governments that have held office since the fateful decision to adhere to the Treaty of Rome leads one to the second development that should cause concern. The contemporary House of Commons is suited neither in its procedures or its personnel to discharge its classical responsibilities — the serious consideration of legislation, and the supervision of the executive. Decreasing numbers of MPs have either the experience or the range of skills to perform such duties with confidence, and would appear to be regarded by the voters principally as local "ombudsmen". Moreover, they seem to show an unwillingness to submit their proposals to scrutiny or amendment in the House of Lords, where both experience and expertise are found to a much greater degree.

The argument for haste is buttressed by the claim that devolution cannot be postponed in view of the national demands of the Scots and the Welsh. Again the argument is hard to sustain. Wales has been part of a common policy since the time of the Tudors, Scotland gave up its separate parliament nearly 300 years ago. Would it not be a good idea to allow some time to get the new dispensation on the right lines? The advocates of devolution thrive on a confusion between the widely accepted principle of national self-determination and the concrete suggestions for devolution. If a nation truly aspires to run its own affairs, the general consensus today is that its independence should be accepted — though examples across Europe (including Ireland) and elsewhere show that when a sizeable majority rejects the new regime for whatever reason, even independence may not be the solution. In some cases, however, a federal rather than a unitary form of government may provide the clue to success.



Ill-debated reforms of ancient institutions are being rushed through at a pace that is impossible to justify and has no parallel in our long constitutional history

Federalism is a respectable idea with a long history. It has developed accepted norms of procedure and has produced an impressive body of literature. But the reasons for rejecting federalism for the United Kingdom, or "Home rule all round" as it used to be styled, are familiar and persuasive. So instead the Scots are held to desire devolution: that is to say that Englishmen should have no say in the affairs of Scotland while Scotsmen in the Westminster Parliament should continue to have a voice in English affairs. It is hard to think of a better recipe for conflict.

To this one must add the much canvassed question of financial relations and the less often raised issue of the strains on the role of the monarch, and the integrity of the Civil Service. But whatever one's view of these and other matters, one thing is clear. While Scottish independence would not massively affect the governance of the rest of the United Kingdom, devolution involves the recasting of the entire constitution. It is thus of as much importance to residents in England as to those who inhabit Scotland or Wales — the denial of a vote to the English in the referendums shows the extent to which the whole implications of their proposals are unappreciated by the Lord Chancellor and his colleagues.

It is also the case that devolution fits into the process by which British self-rule has been undermined by EU institutions. Some advocates of devolution have no qualms about admitting their expectation that what they are seeking is not so much more self-rule for the Scots as more power for "Europe" over Scotland and the other regions of Britain. Indeed the co-chairman of the Scottish Convention, Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale, has made it clear that she sees no contradiction between her championing of devolution and her commitment to further European integration. Her Braveheart is not William Wallace but Jacques Santer.

Compared with the threatened destruction of the unity of the kingdom, playing around with the composition of the House of Lords might be seen as a minor folly. But it illustrates the shallowness of the whole current approach to constitutional reform. How can the composition of a legislative chamber be decided without a clear notion of its proposed powers and functions? And how can this be known when the powers and scope of the House of Commons itself remain to be decided?

All we have been told so far is that the Government is committed to removing the rights of hereditary peers. For a government that claims to be "pragmatic" this is an interesting example of its innate dogmatism. The reason given is that the hereditary principle is wrong. We sometimes get the additional claim that it is undemocratic, which should mean that it is a principle rejected by the population at large. In fact, a survey of many human societies at all levels of sophistication suggests that heredity is seen as an accepted method of allocating social roles, including leadership.

The alternative, "elections", has come into play in relatively recent times. And elections are not infallible. Looking down from the gallery at the new House of Commons one might feel that selecting citizens for public duties by lot would give as good results and more cheaply. This is no more outrageous a notion than most of those now peddled as constitutional "reforms".

Lord Beloff is a former Gladstone Professor of Government and Public Administration at Oxford

Making a mess

FILMING the new movie version of *The Avengers* began at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich on Wednesday in chaos. A storm of simulated snowflakes — consisting of polystyrene chips and raw potato — was released upon the cast, including Uma Thurman and Sean Connery, outside the building. Unfortunately, a flurry of flakes was sucked into the banqueting room, the Painted Hall, through the ventilation system.

There they stuck to the great baroque ceiling, painted by the 18th-century artist, Sir John Thornhill, to the Tuscan columns and to the giant pilasters separating the lower hall and upper galleries. Further devastation was wrought when two miniature cranes brought in by the film company to transport props went trundling over the 16th-century flagstones, leaving the authorities clutching their stomachs in pain.

The Painted Hall and Uma Thurman: covered in flakes

THE TIMES DIARY

"There's a frightful mess," says a college inhabitant who witnessed the fiasco. "The potato bits are particularly hard to scrape off the walls and ceilings. We may need to employ an official picture restorer to deal with the Thornhill ceiling, but the flagstones are irreplaceable." The film company was unavailable for comment but will be expected to make good their mess.

Gummed up

ANGLO-ITALIAN relations in London are being strained by chewing-gum deposits. The gum has been piling up on the pavement outside the Italian Consulate in Belgravia, left by the long queues of schoolchildren and tourists waiting to get in to the understaffed office. The local dowagers and Euro-millionaires are furious at endlessly finding gum on the soles of their soft leather shoes.

Despite repeated complaints, however, neither Westminster Council nor the consulate will accept responsibility for the mess.

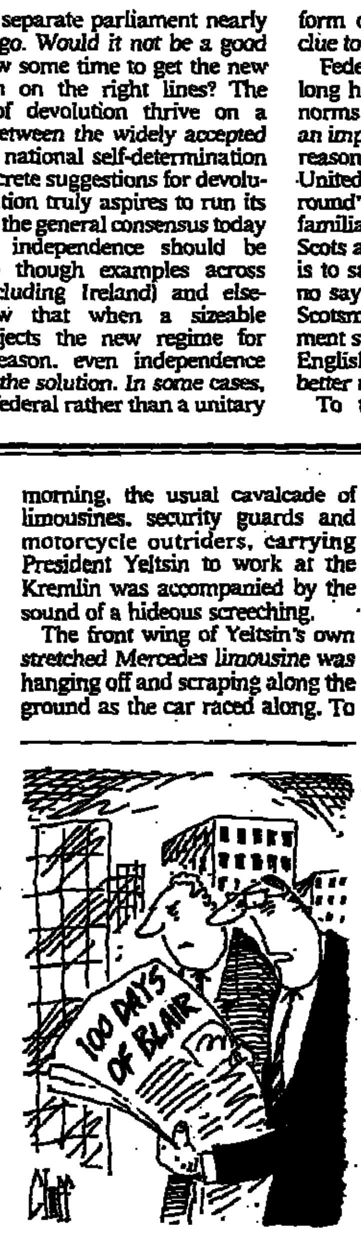
"Chewing gum is categorised as an antisocial deposit," says a spokesman at Westminster Council, "and we have special cleansing equipment to deal with it, but it is too expensive to mobilise it on such a small area. Can't the consulate pick it off themselves?" It would appear not.

"I regularly inspect the deposits," says Dr Lucio Savoia, the genial Italian Consular-General, "and I find them most un-*simpatico*. But I can't possibly ask my cleaning staff to deal with the problem. It would be too demeaning."

Car trouble

MECHANICAL failure is spreading down from the *Mir* space station to infect even the highest echelons of Russian life. Yesterday morning, the usual cavalcade of limousines, security guards and motorcycle outriders, carrying President Yeltsin to work at the Kremlin was accompanied by the sound of a hideous screeching.

The front wing of Yeltsin's own stretched Mercedes limousine was hanging off and scraping along the ground as the car raced along. To the visible embarrassment of Yeltsin's goons, on the pavements all round, Muscovites were doubled up laughing at this display of presidential power and, worst of all, a sniggering band of American tourists.



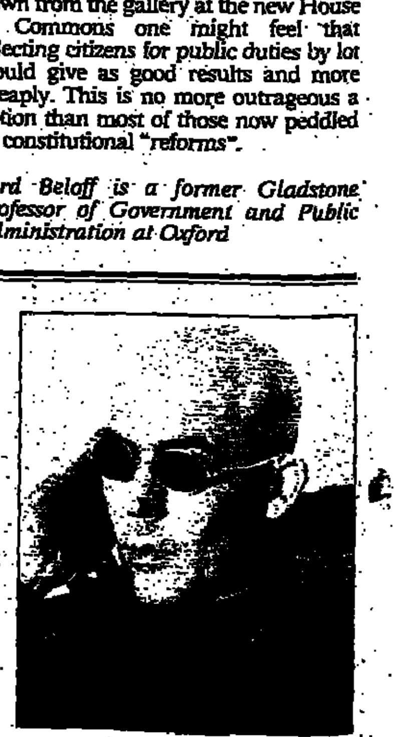
I'll reserve my judgment until the Test match is finished

- *Dodi Fayed, "De Man for Diana" as my tabloid colleagues describe him, has at least got a playboy's name. Dodi, a pet name for Emad, is commonly pronounced "Doody" and is a favourite of mummy's boys and rascals.*

Hard act

LONDON'S more sensitive literati are to receive a shot in the arm with the arrival in October of Hunter S. Thompson. He is making a rare sortie from his home in Woody Creek, Colorado, to promote his new book *The Proud Highway: The Fear and Loathing Letters*. Unfortunately for those who are having to handle him, he is feeling pricklier than a desert cactus.

In a fax to his publisher, David Reynolds, of Bloomsbury, Thompson reveals a Queen Mother-ish taste in hotels and says he is prepared to come but only on certain conditions: "Assuming we can work out suitably comfortable accomidations [sic]," he writes, "travel and professional medical attention for the pinched sciatic nerve in my back. It tends to act up when I travel. No doubt Claridge's will have a chiropractor on call at all hours in case of problems." One more condition: "I cannot be forced to stand naked five or six hours at a time in Scottish drinking contests."



Thompson: pinched nerve

P·H·S

ONE HUNDRED DAYS

An American import Blair should have done without

There was a time not long ago when political eras were measured in decades or at least the length of a government. In the soundbite era, a mere 14 weeks is deemed sufficient for reflection and celebration. The Government plans an annual report so that we might enjoy such occasions on a regular basis. There is little harm in this idea, provided the inevitably partisan document concerned is issued by and financed through the Labour Party and not sponsored by the taxpayer.

The original one hundred days referred to the flight of Louis XVIII from Paris. It has become better known after Napoleon Bonaparte, whose 116-day march between escape from Elba and defeat at Waterloo in 1815 prompted the King to quit his capital. In this century, the phrase has been most closely associated with the early period of Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency. In a 100-day session, Congress passed 24 major pieces of "New Deal" legislation in 1933 that had been promoted by the White House. As new Labour has imported most of its policies and all of its campaign techniques from the United States it comes as little surprise that it has now raided American political vocabulary.

President Roosevelt offers an interesting if inconsistent example for the Prime Minister. In substantive terms the President would be an inappropriate figure for emulation. The New Deal programme represented an enormous extention of central authority. A new role was established over economics, regulation and welfare, all of which required Washington to occupy terrain that had previously been the preserve of state and local administration. The challenge of the 1990s — as Roosevelt's fellow Democrat, Bill Clinton, has found — is how to retreat from such commitments in an orderly fashion. Tony Blair may accept this fate but whether his party does remains another matter.

Roosevelt, like Mr Blair, had inherited a political party out of power for over a decade not least because of internal doctrinal struggles. The Democrats in the 1920s fought over numerous issues, the most potent of which was prohibition. One faction favoured repeal of the constitutional ban on alcohol, while another supported its retention with equal enthusiasm. The two camps were respectively known as "wets" and "drys" — terms that Margaret Thatcher lifted from the American political dictionary in the 1980s. Roosevelt's nomination represented the final triumph of the "wets" and soon afterwards the offending 18th amendment was deleted from the US Constitution.

What Mr Blair can learn from Roosevelt mainly has to do with style and strategy. The Democrat was elected in a landslide, but one attributed to distaste for an unpopular incumbent. Roosevelt's leadership was radical but within the mainstream of the American constitutional tradition. He deployed inclusive methods and sought, in office, to expand his coalition rather than rest on his vast majority. His public relations machine was brilliant but based on substance not manipulation. As a consequence he was re-elected by an even larger margin and his Democratic Party dominated American politics for the next three decades.

The Prime Minister would doubtless regard this as a rather enticing precedent. At its best his Government looks as if it might match Roosevelt's formidable skills; at other moments it looks distinctly Bonapartist. Humility was an essential ingredient in the electoral appeal of the New Deal President. He came to detest the 100-day tag. It was, he complained in 1939, artificial and a burden on later initiatives. It took the outbreak of the Second World War before he could reclaim his original vigour.

His successors have had more reason to regret that the concept was ever invented. President Kennedy realised that it would be impossible to repeat Roosevelt's experience. In his inaugural address he argued that: "All this will not be finished in the first hundred days. Nor will it be finished in the first thousand days, nor in the life of this Administration nor even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But let us begin." Such thoughts should steer Mr Blair in the 1,700 days or so before he next encounters the electorate.

CRYING FOUL

After Grobbelaar's acquittal, the FA is in the dock

As the football season starts in earnest today, one cloud hanging over the game has been dispelled but causes for disquiet remain. Yesterday's acquittal of Bruce Grobbelaar after accusations of match-fixing and the clearing earlier this week of Hans Segers and John Fashanu on related charges leaves neither a stain on their characters nor justified suspicion that professional football has been systematically corrupted. While the establishment of their innocence reassures, it is no cause for complacency on the part of the game's governing body. The public may also feel that it is not just the laws of the game which require overhaul. The long-drawn out nature of the legal process has already caused the indefatigable Linlithgow MP, Tam Dalyell, to question the wisdom of the prosecution.

The courts, however, have less reason to look to their procedures than the Football Association. Mr Dalyell speaks for many when he expressed his bewilderment that matches might be believed to have been thrown when the video evidence suggested that Mr Grobbelaar was exerting himself above and beyond the call of goal-keeping duty. The MP's argument, while it may have resonance on the terraces, does not, however take into account the other evidence which the court considered.

The manner in which John Fashanu and Hans Segers dealt with initial inquiries into their financial affairs justified the Crown Prosecution Service's decision to bring the case. By declining to give the investigating authorities the answers they wanted about their salting away of significant sums they contributed to bringing matters to trial. Although their reticence in no way takes away from their absolute innocence, the presiding judge, Mr Justice McCullough, was nevertheless entitled to refer to it when waiving their application for costs. Greater candour on their part might have prevented matters having to be established in court. The judge's decision, although unusual, is certainly not outrageous.

What does give rise to proper concern is the loophole in the Football Association's rules governing players' involvement in gambling. Although professional footballers cannot bet on the results of matches in which they are involved, they can act as paid consultants to gambling organisations which do wager on the outcomes of those matches. The defendants in this case were, quite properly, acting as gambling consultants and it was the confusion created by their acting in this role which gave rise to suspicion of wrong-doing.

It is remarkable enough that the Football Association has allowed the anomaly to exist. It would be insupportable to see it continue. For so long as footballers can act as consultants to gambling organisations, suspicions of a conflict of interest can easily arise. A change in the rules would hardly prove an onerous restraint of trade for professional footballers. Recent court judgments and the rise of sporting agents have secured handsome rewards for footballers, with Premiership players earning some £156 million last year. There is no excuse for the men in Lancaster Gate to tackle this challenge with their customary torpor.

SPICE CHIMPS

The female of the species is deadlier than the male

What Kipling, no doubt after prudently cursory inspection backed by peasant hearsay, observed of the Himalayan she-bear has now, after 37 years of painstaking anthropological observation, been confirmed to be true of the Gombe chimpanzee. Kipling's tag would not, of course, be so familiar if it did not speak to a truth subliminally acknowledged — even if pre-feminist man had a rash tendency to quote him, nodding in the direction of a dutiful spouse, with fondly patronising irony.

There seems, too, to be little novelty in the finding by a team led by Jane Goodall, the doyenne of chimpanzee-watchers, that while the poor simplistic male relies on things like chest thumping and warmongering to establish his dominance, females rarely bother to resort to blatant aggression. From Delilah to our own Princess Diana, women have made devastatingly effective use of the subtler weapons of sexually loaded charm to further their careers. Modern man falls as easily for such devices as he did when a certain smile launched a thousand Greek ships and burned the topless towers of Ilium.

Before passing this page to their partners with a wordless curve of the lips, however, women should read on. For what really excites the Goodall team is not the age-old story of man's vulnerability to woman's wiles, but the ways in which, without any evidence of bullying, or of violence beyond the nasty habit of eating the offspring of their unsuccessful rivals, female chimps reduce others of their own sex to a helpless and repeated "pant-grunt" of subservience.

Winners take all, moreover; they not only grab the hulkiest male hulks, but have more children; and their children are far more likely to survive. And power, once won, is handed down through the generations. The daughters of top chimps become sexually mature well before those of lower-ranking females, giving them a head start in the reproductive race. High-ranking mothers help daughters in their turn to dominate their peers. The daughters also put on more weight earlier — but then that is good news in the chimp, if not the human, world.

The team claims to be surprised by these discoveries, having previously believed that Tanzanian chimpanzee communities were "a male construct" where "females were stuck in a bad situation, putting up with a lot of aggression". That may tell us more about the anthropomorphic tendency in anthropology than anything else. Once feminism had taken hold in the human world, it was bound eventually to influence our assessment of animal habits. But this is not, in the end, a tale to warm the feminist heart for it would seem to confirm something else that men have always suspected, and women indignantly denied: that in a crunch, there is no such thing as female solidarity. So unattractive a trait must, of course, be confined to the world of chimpanzees.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Labour's debt to Peter Mandelson

From Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir, Bruce Anderson ("Spinning out of control", August 6) cannot have it every way. Peter Mandelson, he says, "not only invented Tony Blair, he also reinvented the Labour Party" and suggests that without him Labour would not have had its huge majority. Not bad going for a man who, in Mr Anderson's partisan polemic, "does not have an original mind".

As a founder and member for almost twenty years of Labour's Finance and Industry Group, I have not the slightest doubt that, had Peter Mandelson been around 18 years ago, we would have been very glad to have had him on board and that, with him, Labour would not have had to wait nearly two decades to get back into power.

If, as Mr Anderson charges, Mr Mandelson's principal assets are "fear, distrust and ruthlessness", he really must explain how all these were applied to a cowed British electorate, including a goodly number of ex-Tories, so that they returned Labour with such a thumping majority.

Anyone who can commit to print the view that the Tories constitute "the most formidable of all democratic parties" is really not in touch with reality.

Yours faithfully,
S. STERNBERG
(Chairman), ISYS plc,
Hyde House,
The Hyde, Edgware Road, NW9.
August 7.

Claims by ex-PoWs

From Lord Campbell of Alloway

Sir, Brigadier Davies-Scourfield's letter (August 6), suggesting that many ex-PoWs are embarrassed by attempts to squeeze money out of the Government, reflects the broad and informal consensus of those of us at Colditz, as expressed at a recent annual meeting of our association.

Deductions by the Paymaster were known soon after we returned home after the war. We were not advised of any entitlement to compensation but, for the reasons given by Davies-Scourfield, we were not disposed to make any such claim. If there were any entitlement a claim could and should have been made at that time or shortly thereafter. Even financial injustice is subject to delay, which defeats all manner of justice.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CAMPBELL of ALLOWAY
(PoW, Germany, 1940-45),
2 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.
August 6.

From Mr Geoffrey Bensusan

Sir, As prisoners of war in Germany we received barely enough to eat and certainly no money of any sort to buy anything.

Perhaps prisoners deserve little sympathy. But I was certainly not prepared, when I did get back, for the income tax demand I received, in respect of so-called camp pay that never was.

My newly elected Labour MP had a great deal of trouble in getting it set aside. *Plus ça change?*

Yours etc,
GEOFFREY BENSUSAN
(PoW, Germany, 1944-45),
Mansfield Cross,
Ashburnham, Battle, East Sussex.

From Squadron Leader Jack Arkinstall, RAF (retd)

Sir, In 1941 I was posted as "missing, believed killed in action". My wife's marriage and other allowances were stopped immediately and not restored until my return.

In those days there was no social-services net for her to fall into; she had to work to support herself and our three-year-old daughter.

Yours sincerely,
JACK ARKINSTALL
(Detainee, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, 1941),
99 Beach Road, Selsey,
Chichester, West Sussex.
August 6.

Interest rates

From Mr Ronald Eyres

Sir, Now that interest rates have gone up by another [illegible] a percentage point for the fo[illegible] ce the general election ([illegible] ading article, August 8) [illegible] an alternative rise of [illegible] have been better as soo[illegible] overnment took office.

This woul[illegible] to make up for the pre-el[illegible] ect of monetary policy a[illegible] d a greater psychological [illegible].

Raising interest rates in a series of small steps prolongs the period during which they are on the increase and encourages currency speculators to bid up sterling. It may also mean, as in 1988-89, that rates rise further, and stay high for longer, than expected.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD EYRES,
27 Grove Terrace, NW5.
August 8.

Weekend Money letters, page 34

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Royalty, divorce and Church 'crisis'

From the Reverend Andrew P. de Berry

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury's warning of a crisis in the Church of England were Prince Charles to remarry (report, August 6) could alternatively offer the Church a unique opportunity to show common sense and compassion.

We may not be sure how or if the Prince has atoned for his admitted adultery, but that is a matter for his own conscience. Many of us standing far off may adjudge that our future monarch has suffered ignominy and punishment enough. How long ought we to prolong the torment of a man who — for whatever reasons — made a chronic error of nuptial judgment, given that throughout his marriage he was in no doubt concerning the woman whom he actually loved?

If the Church hangs on about divorce and the constitution, it makes a nonsense of allowing the remarriage of divorcees in church, and of turning a blind eye to the huge numbers of newly-weds who have cohabited before marriage.

Often the Church of England is noted for its expertise in finding a compromise: sometimes it is as though it held the patent on fudging. But here, in welcoming HRH Prince Charles to the throne and in a happy non-furtive marriage to Camilla, the Church would display sanctified common sense and the very best of compromises.

Any crisis would rest on the shoulders of bigots and legalists, who by their nature exercise neither compassion nor common sense.

Yours etc,
ANDREW de BERRY,
The Vicarage, Southwell Road,
Thurgarton, [illegible]inghamshire.
August [illegible].

From [illegible]rp

Sir, Th[illegible] of Canterbury is absolu[illegible] saying that there would [illegible] n the Church of Englan[illegible] nce Charles propose to [illegible].

The C[illegible] ching on divorce, based o[illegible] is clear in its disapprova[illegible] d marriages while the first sp[illegible] s still alive. This is a matter whi[illegible] concerns those of us who are committed members of the Church of England and *no one* else. So-called "opinion formers" (report, August 6) are only of consequence as individuals and committed members of the Church, if such they be.

Yours sincerely,
JENNIFER SHARP
Arcadia, Folly Road,
Alfrick, Worcestershire.
August 7.

From Mr Duncan Heenan

Sir, How curious that the Prince of Wales's remarriage would plunge the Church of England into a crisis, but his continued adultery seemingly would not. Nelson may have understood such doctrine, but a generation looking for clear moral guidance and example does not.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN HEENAN,
Thie Lheanagh,
Clenagh Road, Sulby, Isle of Man.
August 6.

From the Archdeacon of Southwark

Sir, Church of England clergy who have divorced and remarried are allowed to continue their ministry in the Church. Why should there be a crisis in the Church of England if the Prince of Wales does the same?

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS BARTLES-SMITH,
1a Dog Kennel Hill,
East Dulwich, SE22.

From Mr M. J. Kerr

Sir, If, as the Archbishop states, the remarriage of the Prince of Wales would cause a crisis in the Church of England, the question is raised as to whether it is the Church or the Prince who should reconsider their position.

Yours etc,
M. J. KERR,
The Culver House,
Newnham-on-Severn,
Gloucestershire.
August 6.

From Miss Jennifer Drake-Brockman

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury should remember that the Church of England originated in a divorce and remarriage.

Yours sincerely,
JENNIFER DRAKE-BROCKMAN,
Ironstone Farmhouse,
Milton, Banbury, Oxfordshire.
August 6.

House-buying rules

From the Chairman of the Home Charter Committee, Law Society of Northern Ireland

Sir, I refer to your leading article of July 28 on the Government's planned overhaul of house buying (see also letters, August 4).

Much has been made of the advantages of the Scottish system. Few have recognised the initiative taken by the Law Society of Northern Ireland for a quality-control scheme, launched by the previous Lord Chancellor two years ago.

Over 75 per cent of all solicitors in Northern Ireland belong to this Home Charter Scheme. The society monitors all members and examines a selection of files at random to determine if the rules of the scheme are being applied. These rules include records of interviews and correspondence with the client to ensure that he or she is regularly provided with progress reports.

All scheme members must use a particular form of contract requiring the seller, through his solicitor, to provide up-to-date searches and property certificates at the start of the transaction, to reduce delays in completion. Thus most of the present Government's concerns are already met in a scheme which is at this stage entirely voluntary.

Significantly the Council of Mortgage Lenders has yet to enter meaningful discussions on the operation of the scheme, but many of the council's members have recognised the importance of the initiative and given encouragement.

We view the discussions between the council and the English Law Society with concern, and very much fear that the result of the council's present proposals might be to provide a safety net in the form of solicitors' indemnity insurance for bad lending decisions.

Yours faithfully,
B. F. WALKER, Chairman,
Home Charter Committee,
Law Society of Northern Ireland,
Law Society House,
Victoria Street, Belfast.
August 4.

Kelly at the Tate

From Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, FBA, Master of Jesus College, Cambridge

Sir, "Dumbing down at the Tate" was the heading which you chose to introduce Simon Jenkins's unenthusiastic commentary (August 2) on the current Ellsworth Kelly exhibition at the Tate Gallery. But I wonder if that does justice to the power and the sophistication of Kelly's work? Indeed, may one not sense that your columnist has some general lack of enthusiasm for abstract art (since he condemns Mondrian in the same breath as Kelly)?

I happened to find the Ellsworth Kelly show the most enjoyable which I have seen at the Tate in over 40 years, and on a level of excellence with the New York Museum of Modern Art's admirable Mondrian exhibition last year. In contemplating an unfamiliar art style, whose power lies in its very simplicity, it may take time for the eyes truly to see and the mind fully to register what is on offer.

In the past Simon Jenkins has often been effective in transmitting his enthusiasm, for instance in the field of architecture. But I wonder whether, in presenting 2,000 words written in such joyless vein about two of the great masters of abstract art, you are not instead merely "dumbing down at *The Times*".

Yours faithfully,
COLIN RENFREW,
The Master's Lodge,
Jesus College, Cambridge.
August 7.

'Knee-jerk' headlines

From Mr Fritz Spiegl

Sir, Jim Brennan's article, "Classic A-level blunders" (Education, August 1), tells of the illiteracy and ignorance he encountered among examination candidates who think that "allowed" is spelt "aloud", and "their" and "there" are interchangeable, no doubt having been told at school that spelling was unimportant.

When children begin to read newspapers this idea is reinforced for them by boringly repetitive and supposedly punning knee-jerk headlines, such as "Altar ego" for stories about the Church, "Hurd instinct" for the former Foreign Secretary, "The reel world" (for films and fishing), etc. For some mysterious reason sub-editors for the past decade or two have considered it hilarious to write "daze" for "days"; "soles" for "souls"; "way" for "weigh" (and vice versa). Hardly "The write stuff" — which is a headline trotted out day after tedious day.

I am told that this drivel is actually *taught* as part of a nebulous university subject called "Media Studies". Even your own — increasingly long and still growing — headlines now often read like jocular crossword clues. No wonder the young are confused.

Yours faithfully,
FRITZ SPIEGL,
4 Windermere Terrace, Liverpool 8.

From Miss Celia Nash

Sir, I note from your Crème de la Crème section that employers frequently specify that they would prefer to employ secretarial staff educated to A-level, if not degree, standard.

After reading Jim Brennan's article, I feel that this begs the question, "Why?".

Yours truly,
CELIA NASH,
1 Boleyn House,
13 Ship Street, Brecon, Powys.
August 1.

First-class cricket at every level

From Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, Chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board

Sir, William Rees-Mogg ("Cricket's decline and fall", August 7) is misinformed in his contention that *Raising the Standard*, the England and Wales Cricket Board's plans for the restructuring of cricket (reports and leading article, August 6) emphasises the one-day game. There is likely to be a marginal increase in the number of one-day games played. One-day cricket is very popular and now an essential element in the game's finances.

The tru[illegible] phasis of *Raising the Standard* [illegible] y that. Unless we raise the [illegible] of play at every level — [illegible] school to the top of the p[illegible] ame — we may never a[illegible] p-flight cricket nation.

The r[illegible] of the county champi[illegible] ee conferences, with pla[illegible] aine the county champio[illegible] oduce harder, more co[illegible] ket and make a very subs[illegible] tribution to producing st[illegible] gland Test sides. The ECB's [illegible] sed structure will also help co[illegible] become more financially viable. None are at present.

Our plans call for raising the standards of coaching and for a much more disciplined approach to skills and fitness training. By slightly reducing the amount of four-day cricket played our top cricketers will have more time for coaching, skills and fitness training. The aim is better cricket.

Our proposed new structure is designed to deliver better cricket, better cricketers, draw bigger audiences, bring more money into the game and produce Test cricketers able to take on and beat the world.

There is no quick fix to solving the issues facing English cricket, but *Raising the Standard* is, I believe, the right way forward.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MacLAURIN,
Chairman,
England and Wales Cricket Board,
Lord's Cricket Ground, NW8.
August 7.

From Mr Roger Tilbury

Sir, I disagree with your views ("A better game", leading article, August 6) — I think Lord MacLaurin's proposals will kill cricket stone dead in about ten years, but that is by the by — particularly your favouring of promotion and relegation. Can you not imagine the utterly boring cricket that would be played by a team struggling to avoid relegation?

It was when cricket was played at Weston-super-Mare (and Worthing, Hastings, Westcliff, Clacton, Ashby-de-la-Zouch etc) that people who had only one chance a year to do so went to see it. Nothing is more soul-destroying than playing (or watching) county cricket in virtually empty Test match arenas.

It should also be remembered that, 40 years ago, all counties played at least 28 first-class matches and Tests seemed a pleasant diversion rather than the be-all and end-all of cricket.

We also beat everybody else.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER TILBURY,
Flat 4, 80 Shepherds Hill, N6.
August 7.

From Mr William Clarke

Sir, I enjoyed William Rees-Mogg's perceptive obituary of the classic game of cricket. But I failed to follow his logic in his assertion that the Australians usually win the Test matches against England but lose the one-day matches because they concentrate less on the skills of the latter and "come from a more competitive culture". What can be more competitive than the limited-over, one-day game?

While William was watching the giants at Weston-super-Mare, I was watching both the giants at Old Trafford (Jack Hobbs's last century in first-class cricket in 1934) and the one-day matches in the Lancashire League between Nelson (with Learie Constantine at his peak) and Colne. The contrast between the crowds and competitive passions of the latter with the leisurely pace of the county three-day matches was striking.

If, as Lord MacLaurin's report suggests, the future lies with the "one-day game and exciting play-offs", its progenitors, for good or ill, were Lancashire League cricket and Australian TV tycoons.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM CLARKE,
37 Park Vista, Greenwich, SE10.
August 7.

Tests tossed away

From Mr Joe Mellen

Sir, Is it not time that the rules were changed regarding the decision to bat or bowl at the beginning of a Test match?

England have had a hard enough time this summer without being handicapped by losing the toss every single game.

Why not toss before the first Test match and thereafter take it in turns to make the decision? Wouldn't that be fairer?

Yours sincerely,
JOE MELLEN,
13 Langton Street, SW10.
August 8.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will visit India and Pakistan in October at the invitation of the Presidents of both countries.

Royal engagements

TODAY:
The Queen will arrive at Brodick Pier, Isle of Arran, at 11.30; will open Ormidale Park at 11.45; will have luncheon at Brodick Castle at 12.40 and will open the Visitor Centre, Isle of Arran Distillers at 2.55.

TOMORROW:
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend a service at St Peter's, Thurso, at 10.55, to mark the 75th anniversary of the Caithness Federation of Scottish Women's Rural Institutes.

Service dinner

Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force

The Mayor of Lincoln, the City Sheriff and Brigadier P.B. *Stevenson were the principal* guests at the annual officers' dinner of the Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force held last night at Wathgill Training Camp, North Yorkshire. Colonel R.A. Dockinson, Commandant, received the guests. Major A.D. McIntyre, PMC, presided.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon George Irby
and Miss N.S.M. Rei[illegible]

The engagement [illegible] between George, el[illegible] and Lady Boston, [illegible] Anglesey, and N[illegible] daughter of Mr W[illegible] Reid of Sible Hedingham, E[illegible] John Pritchard, [illegible] Leicestershire.

Mr G. Rowe
and Miss S. Jameson

The engagement is announced between Giles, son of Mr Antony Rowe, of Beech House, Upper Swainswick, near Bath, Avon, and the late the Hon Mrs Jennifer MacDonald, *and Serena, daughter* of Mr and Mrs Julian Jameson, of Swainstown Hill, Dunsany, Co Meath.

Captain E.T. Boanas
and Miss J.C. Sutherland

The engagement is announced between Captain Edward Boanas, Irish Guards, son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Boanas, of Kent, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs *Ian Sutherland, of Hampshire.*

Mr W.D. Kelly
and Miss C.L. Pickles

The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr Patrick Kelly, of Banbury, and Mrs Naomi Kelly, of Southampton, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Pickles, of Lytham, Lancashire.

Mr S.R. Bradshaw
and Miss K.W. Bell

The marriage is announced between Steven Richard, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Keith Bradshaw, of Epsom, Surrey, and Karen Wilson, younger daughter of Mrs Jane Bell and the late Robert Bell, of Paisley, Renfrewshire, at St Mark's Church, Oldhall, Paisley.

The Rev P.M. Rich
and Miss J.E. Coomber

The engagement is announced between Paul, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs William Rich, of Egham, Surrey, and Joanne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael *Coomber, of Crondall, Hampshire.*

Jonkheer J.P. von Schmidt
and Miss L.J. Cobb

The engagement is announced between Johan Peter, younger son of Jonkheer and Mrs Erik von Schmidt auf Altenstadt, of Chelsea, and Leanne Jacqueline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs George Cobb, of Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Mr C.W. Smith
and Miss I.M. Carbin

The marriage takes place today at St Bede's Church, Clapham Park, between Mr Colin Smith, elder son of Mr William Smith and the late Mrs Margaret Smith, and Miss Irene Carbin, elder daughter of the late Mr Pat Carbin and of Mrs Mary Carbin.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Isaak Walton, author of *The Compleat Angler*, Stafford, 1593; Thomas Telford, road, bridge and canal builder, Westerkirk, Dumfries, 1757; George Payne James, novelist, London, 1799; Joseph Locke, civil engineer, Attercliffe, Yorkshire, 1805; Jean Piaget, child psychologist, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 1896; Solomon, pianist, London 1902; Giles Cooper, playwright, Dublin, 1918; Philip Larkin, poet, Coventry, 1922.

DEATHS: Andrew Combe, physiologist, Edinburgh, 1847; Frederick Marryat, novelist, Langham, Norfolk, 1848; Sir Edward Frankland, chemist, Golaa, Norway, 1899; Ruggiero Leoncavallo, composer, Montecatini Ferme, Italy, 1919; Ernst Haeckel, naturalist, Jena, Germany, 1919; Sir Bernard Partridge, artist and cartoonist, London, 1945; Hermann Hesse, poet and novelist, Montagnold, Switzerland, 1962; Dmitri Shostakovich, composer, Moscow, 1975.

Edward VII was crowned in Westminster Abbey after a six-week delay due to an emergency appendectomy, 1902.

An atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki by the Americans, 1945.

Singapore became independent, 1965.

Gerald Ford became the 38th American President, 1974.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Sir Charles Napier, soldier, London, 1782; Count Camillo di Cavour, Italian patriot, Turin, 1810; Charles Keene, artist, Hornsey, 1823; J. Scott Lidgett, theologian, London, 1854; Sir Almroth Wright, bacteriologist, Yorkshire, 1861; Laurence Binyon, poet, Lancaster, 1869; Herbert Hoover, 31st American President 1929-33, West Branch, Iowa, 1874; Leo Fender, pioneer of the electric guitar, Anaheim, California, 1909.

DEATHS: Allan Ramsay, artist, Dover, 1784; John Wilson Croker, politician, London, 1857; Sir George Staunton, writer, London, 1859; Otto Lilienthal, pioneer aviator, Berlin, 1896; Oswald Veblin, mathematician, Maine, 1960; Sharon Tate, actress, murdered, Hollywood, *1969.*

King Charles II laid the foundation stone of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, 1675.

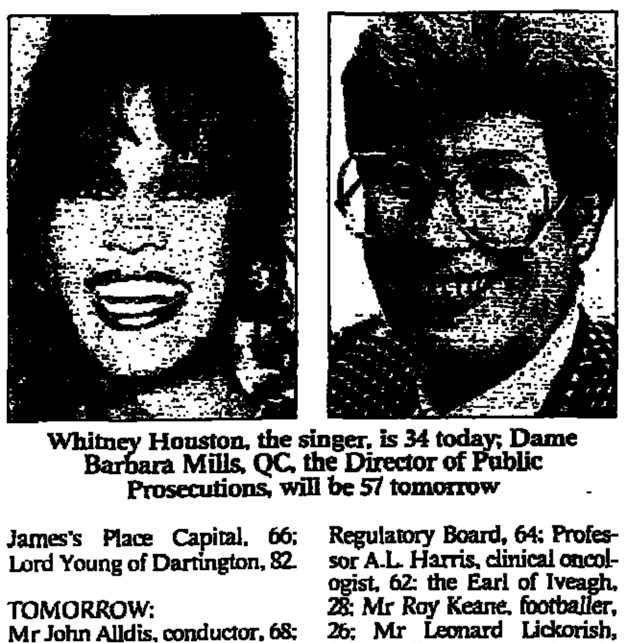
The Smithsonian Institution was established at Washington by a bequest from James Smithson, an English scientist, to foster scientific research, 1846.

Sir Henry Wood's first Promenade Concert was held at the Queen's Hall, London, 1895.

The Japanese fleet defeated the Russians off Port Arthur, 1904.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:
Mr D.W. Astor, former chairman, CPRE, 54; Viscount Bangor, 49; Sir Philip Beck, former chairman, John Mowlem and Co, 63; Mr M.L. Bourdillon, Lord-Lieutenant of Powys, 73; Major Sir Peter Clarke, royal equerry, 70; Professor Elizabeth Cutter, botanist, 68; Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, 65; Baroness Denington, 90; Captain Colin Farquharson of Whitehouse, Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, 74; Mr Jonathan Fry, chief executive, Burmah Castrol, 60; Miss Melanie Griffith, actress, 40; Sir Eric Howells, farmer, 64; Sir Alistair Hunter, diplomat, 61; Sir Christopher Laidlaw, company director, 75; Mr Rod Laver, tennis player, 59; Sir Frank Layfield, QC, 76; Mr Robert Malpas, chairman, Eurotunnel, 70; Mr James Naughtie, broadcaster, 46; Mr Ashley Page, dancer and choreographer, 41; Professor Gerald Shaper, clinical epidemiologist, 70; Miss Posy Simmonds, cartoonist, 52; Mr John Simpson, broadcaster, 53; *Professor David* VandeLinde, Vice-Chancellor, Bath University, 55; Sir Mark Weinberg, chairman, St James's Place Capital, 66; Lord Young of Dartington, 82.


Whitney Houston, the singer, is 34 today; Dame Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, will be 57 tomorrow

TOMORROW:
Mr John Alldis, conductor, 68; Miss Rosanna Arquette, actress, 38; Sir Frank Bowden, industrialist and landowner, 88; Dame Gillian Brown, former diplomat, 74; Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, 64; Sir Lawrence Byford, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 72; *General Sir George Cooper,* 72; Professor Alexander Goehr, composer, 65; Sir Alan Hardcastle, chairman, Lloyds Regulatory Board, 64; Professor A.L. Harris, clinical oncologist, 62; the Earl of Iveagh, 28; *Mr Roy Keane, footballer,* 26; Mr Leonard Lickorish, former director-general, British Tourist Authority, 76; Lord Lisle, 94; Mr Paul Newlove, rugby league player, 26; Miss Kate O'Mara, actress, 58; Sir David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, 64; Lord Stewartby, FBA, 62; Mrs Elizabeth Thomas, literary consultant, 78; Mr Barry Unsworth, author, 67; Mr Richard Wells, Chief Constable, South Yorkshire, 57.

Latest wills

Baroness Lloyd of Hampstead, of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, left estate valued at £425,012 net.

Enid Frances **Jefferson**, of Dorridge, Solihull, West Midlands, left estate valued at £2,300,843 net.

Denis James **Suter**, of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,610,087 net.

Phyllis Primrose Churchman **Warburg**, of Yarnells Hill, Oxford, left estate valued at £998,732 net.

Kenneth **Watkins**, of Harford, Ivybridge, Devon, left estate valued at £1,255,540 net.
He left £50,000 to the Woodland Trust, Grantham, Lincolnshire, along with interests in two properties: Hall Plantation, Harford, Devon, and King's Wood, Harford, Devon. He also left shares in his residuary estate to the same organisation.

Joan Weston **Wilding-Jones**, of Maesfen, near Whitchurch, Shropshire, left estate valued at £1,312,507 net.

Archibald Norman **Winckworth**, of Dunchideock, Exeter, Devon, left estate valued at £1,237,653 net.
He left £30,000 to the Exeter Diocesan Board.

Marriages

Mr I.G. Shearer
and Miss M. E. Dalyell

The marriage took place yesterday at St Margaret's, South Queensferry, of Mr Ian Shearer, youngest son of the late Mr James Shearer and of Mrs Mary Shearer, of Oxshott, Surrey, to Miss Moira Eleanor Dalyell, only daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs Tam Dalyell, of The Binns, Linlithgow. Father P. Capaldi officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Doon Ram, Nina Ross, Megan Ross and Miss Sally Cullen. Mr Keith Shearer wss best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Canada.

Mr J.M.R. Dodwell
and Miss I.J.L. Cadell

The marriage took place on Saturday, August 2, 1997, at the Church of St John the Baptist, Burley, of Mr James Dodwell, son of Mr Richard Dodwell, of Oxhey, *and Mrs Frances Dodwell, of* Godalming, and Iona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Cadell, of Burley, Hampshire. The Venerable Alan Clarkson officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Miss Bridget Jones, Miss Cornelia de Uphaugh and Miss Helen Dodwell. Mr Steve Plag was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in Zimbabwe.

Mr R.S. Maxwell
and Miss R.L. Steinhouse

The marriage took place on Sunday, July 13, 1997, at The New London Synagogue, between Mr Robert Simon Maxwell and Miss Rachel Louise Steinhouse, daughter of Mr and Mrs Irwin Steinhouse.

The Rev T.C.K. Sledge
and Miss J.P.C. Strudwick

The marriage took place on July 26, at St Mary's Church, Osterley, Middlesex, of the Rev Timothy Sledge, son of the Venerable Richard and Mrs Sledge, of Brampton, Huntingdon, to Miss Penelope Strudwick, youngest daughter of Mrs Hilary Strudwick and the late Mr Christopher Strudwick.

No call to lament for such fine piping

By Angus Nicol

THE 31st MacCrimmon Memorial Piobaireachd recital was held this week in what was formerly the Great Hall of Dunvegan Castle in Skye, now its drawing-room.

As always, the primary purpose was to give a recital of piobaireachd by five of the finest pipers in the world. The second purpose is to make the annual award, to one of the five, of the Silver Chanter.

This year there was *a third* purpose: to honour the memory of Sorley MacLean. As well as being one of the great poets of this century, Sorley was devoted to piobaireachd, and that was often reflected in his poetry. He seldom, if ever, missed a Silver Chanter recital. Sorley's brother, Dr Norman MacLean, was Fear-cathrach for the evening.

All the tunes this year were laments, and all but one composed by or for one of the MacCrimmon hereditary pipers to Mac Leod of MacLeod. The recital was begun by Roderick MacLeod, himself a holder of the Silver Chanter, with an excellent performance of Donald Mor MacCrimmon's *Lament for Donald Duaghail MacKay.* Donald Duaghail, chief of Clan MacKay and first Lord Reay, was a friend and ally of Donald Mor.

Last year's winner of the Silver Chanter was William MacCallum. He played the magnificent *Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon.* Donald Ban was killed by a stray bullet at the Rout of Moy, during the 'Forty-five, thus fulfilling a presentiment that he had had of his own death. This tune was composed by Malcolm MacGimmon.

Next, Dr Angus MacDonald gave a most musical performance of the *Lament for the Children,* composed by Patrick Mor MacCrimmon after the death in one year of seven of his eight children.

Angus MacColl played the *Lament for Patrick Og MacCrimmon.* Patrick Og was the surviving child of Patrick Mor, and the tutor of Iain Dall MacKay. This superb tune was composed by Iain Dall when he was told (mistakenly) of the death of Patrick Og. Later Patrick Og not only heard Iain Dall play it, but is said to have played it himself. Angus MacColl gave a very fine performance.

The last to play was Allan MacDonald. His tune, not a MacCrimmon tune, was the *Lament for the Harp Tree.* There are many legends about the origin of this formidable tune, none of which is borne out by evidence. But it is probably the oldest tune now known, and certainly the longest. Allan MacDonald's theory as to the link between òran mór and ceòl mór are now quite well known. It was well illustrated in his performance of the *Harp Tree,* which had many new idioms, though perhaps "new" may not be the apt word, and great musicality. It was, for the present day, an innovation in the playing of ceòl mór.

After a memorable cuirm-ciùil, a feast of music, the Silver Chanter was presented by Mrs Renee MacLean, Sorley's widow, to Dr Angus MacDonald.

The adjudicator was Dr Jack Taylor, who was awarded the Silver Chanter in 1984. It is the custom to present a small replica of the Silver Chanter to the previous year's winner. Somehow this was overlooked in 1985, and a replica was presented to Dr Taylor, as well as to William MacCallum, this year.

Pewterers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Pewterers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Dr G.M. Pearl; Upper Warden, Mr M.J.W. Piercy; Renter Warden, Mr William Grant.

Church services tomorrow

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch; 6.30 EP.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M. Plainsong Responses. Jesu, Joy of man's desiring (Bach), The Dean; 3.15 E.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 S Euch. Communion Serv in D (Britten). Panis angelicus (Franck). The call (Vaughan Williams); 3.15 Ch E. Psalm 42 (Drinkell). As the bridegroom to his chosen (Rutter); 5 Gosper.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 11 Ch Euch. M. Aeternum Munera (Palestrina), Rev V Cory; 4 Ch E. Responses (Smith), Murrill in E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M; 10.30 Euch, Darke in F. Ave verum (Byrd), Rev M Wedgeworth; 4 Ch E. The Heavens are telling (Haydn), Canon Hindley.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11 Jazz Festival Service, Canon H Lloyd; 3.30 E. Stanford in G. Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Euch. Canon J Simpson; 3.30 EP. The Dean.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Locus iste (Bruckner). O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Dr P Humberstone; 3.15 E. Kelly in C. Tell it out among the heathen (Travers). Rev Dr J Polkinghorne; 6.30 Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch. Darke in E. Sonate No 4 (Mendelssohn). Archdeacon C Stannard; 3 E. Stanford in C. Responses (Rose).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Canon P Hartley; 11.15 S Euch. Canon Dr R Greenwood; 6 E.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Darke in E. O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Canon M Rees; 11.30 Ch M, Responses (Radcliffe), Te Deum in G (Vaughan Williams), Canon M Rees; 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Radcliffe), Sumsion in G; 6.30 ES.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M. Collegium Regale (Howells). O nata lux (Tallis), Rev M Maddocks; 11 S Euch. O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Rev C Handford; 3.30 E. Responses (Webster), Ave Maria (Biebl).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, *Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M. Canon Peirce; 11.15 S Euch,* God be in my head (Rutter). Missa Sancti Josephi (Peeters), Canon Webster; 6 E. Dyson in D.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 SE. Darke in F. Lead me, Lord (Gould); 3.30 CE, Brewer in D. Hymn to St Columba (Britten).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch. Edwards in C sharp minor. Sing my soul (Ned Rorem), Canon V Faull; 5 E. Responses (Smith). Short Service (Gibbons).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch; [illegible] E. Vaughan Williams in C. See what love (Mendelssohn), Rev S Barby.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Te Deum in C (Stanford), Canon R Coppin; 11.15 HC. Missa super O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Canon D Brown; 3.30 E. Bairstow in D. Let all the world (Leighton).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Missa brevis (Britten), O Sacrum convivium (Leighton), The Precentor; 3.45 E. Thou, O Lord, art my hope (Stoizfus).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Mass in D (Hurford), Canon K Parry; 11.15 M, Responses (Rose). Te Deum in A flat (Harris), *Rev G Daxter; 3 E. Responses (Ayleward),* Noble in B minor; 6.30 ES. O for a closer walk (Stanford), Canon K Parry.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.15 Euch. Mass in the Dorian Mode (Howells), Canon W Vanstone; 3 E. O Saviour of the World (Howells), Thee will I love (Howells).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn), The Dean; 11.15 M, Jubilate in B flat (Stanford). Though I speak with the tongues of men (Bairstow), Canon O Bryant; 6.30 E. Sumsion in G, They that go down to the sea ships (Sumsion), Canon Dr M Palmer.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Darke in E. Be still my soul (Whitlock), Rev A Osbourne; 11.30 M, Ireland in F; 3.30 E, Gloucester Service (Howells). And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Rev S Thomas.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 Euch, The Precentor; 4 EP.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Wood in F. Jubilate in F (Ireland). The Precentor; 3.30 E. Responses (Terry), Stanford in A.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Missa brevis in F, To thee we sing (Rachmaninov); 11.15 M. Responses (Tallis); 3.45 E. Noble in B, Canon J Nurser.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch, Canon D Hutton; 3 Ch E, Canon N Vincent; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 9 Euch; 11 S Euch; 3.30 Ch E.

***MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 8.45 M;* 10.30 S Euch. How lovely are thy dwellings (Brahms). Canon R Preston; 3.30 E. Locus iste (Bruckner). Responses (Shephard).

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Mr D Govier; 6 Ch E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 M. Responses (Smith). Te Deum in F (Elgar). Blessed be the Lord God of Israel (Elgar). Canon C Westbrook; 6.30 Ch E, Dyson in D. Thou O God, art praised in Sion (Boyle). The Archdeacon.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch. I sat down under his shadow (Bairstow), Canon R Hammer; 3.30 E. Responses (Pratt), Walmisley in D minor, Rev A Little; 6.30 Euch of Healing and Reconciliation.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M & L; 10.30 Euch, Sumsion in F, The Dean; 3.30 E, Brewer in F. Be still my soul (Sibelius).

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 9.30 Euch, Ave verum (Byrd), Rev P Driver; 11.30 M, Set me as a seal (Walton), Canon K Punshon; 5.30 E, Kelly in C. Canon K Pubshon.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Responses (Smith), Te Deum in B flat (Stanford); 10.30 S Euch, Locus iste (Bruckner), Canon A Waterman; 3.15 E. Let thy merciful ears (Mudd), Dyson in D.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch. Mass in B flat (Hummel), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Canon D Durston; 11.30 M, Te Deum in C (Britten), Canon P Roberts; 3 E, Responses (Rose), Bairstow in D, Rev A Philp.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Ven M Paton; 6.30 E, Responses (Morland), Stanford in B flat.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 *Ch Euch, Missa brevis in D (Mozart), Just as I* am (Ben Hutto), Canon D Painter; 3 Ch E, Collegium Regale (Howells). The Provost.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L; 11 S Euch, Lead me, Lord (S S Wesley), Collegium Regale (Howells), Canon D W S James; 3.15 E, John Bate in B flat, The Lord is my shepherd (Stanford)

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, O sing joyfully (Batten), Harwood in A flat, The Librarian; 6 E. Stanford in C, O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells), The Chancellor.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11 S Euch. The Provost; 6.30 E, Responses (Plainsong), Stanford in B flat, Canon G Nairn-Briggs.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch. Collegium regale (Howells), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Rev M J Walker; 11.30 M. Te Deum (Britten), Jubilate in C; 3 E, Bairstow in D, Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley), Ven R F Acworth.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Collegium regale (Howells), *Sing joyfully* (Byrd), Canon A Harvey; 11.15 Euch, Darke in A, O sacrum convivium (Smith); 3 E, Judge eternal (Hancock), Rev B Fenton; 6.30 ES, Canon A Harvey.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Jubilate in C (Britten), Salve Regina (Schubert), Rev C Rich; 11.30 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd); 3.30 E, Responses (Rose). The Archdeacon of Basingstoke.

YORK MINSTER: 8 HC; 10 S Euch. Rev L Stanbridge; 11.30 M, Collegium regale (Howells); 4 E, Kelly in C, Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley), Rev Dr J Toy.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Stanford in B flat, O salutaris hostis (Rossini), Rev K Goulstone; 3.30 EP.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Mathias in C, Rev R Davey; 11.30 Ch C, None other lamb (Burroughs), Rev R Davey; 3.30 Ch E, Now as the troubled day departs (Wright), Responses (Niedman).

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 MS; 10 HC, Four part Mass (Byrd), The Minister; 11.30 MS, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock), The Minister; 8 ES, Rev K K Watson.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 Rev J Wood; 6 Rev J Wood.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Mass in C (Mozart), O Lord, give thy holy Spirit (Tallis), Canon M Saward; 3.15 E, Child in E minor, Loquebantur variis linguis (Palestrina), Rev I Barclay.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 Rev Dr J Stott; 6.30 Rev J Cook.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa octavi toni (Lassus), O vos omnes (Berchem).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 11 M, Rev D Bond; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev D Bond.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Dr P Green; 6.30 Rev J McMahon.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

***THE ORATORY**, Brompton Road, SW7:* 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa brevis in G (Mozart), Jubilate Deo (Gabrieli); 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, O sacrum convivium (Handel).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, Bishop N Irons; 6.30, Rev Dr P Graves.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, Stanford in B flat, Cibavit eos (Byrd), Ms V Rounding; 6.30 Ch Euch, Missa Spem in alium (Palestrina), Rev M Thompson.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Ch M & Euch, Jubilate (Child), Schubert in Gm Canon J Oates; 6.30 Ch E, Responses (Reading), O where shall wisdom to found (Boyce), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Ch Euch, Communion in C & F (Stanford), Prevent us, O Lord (Byrd), Rev L Clark.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev J H McIndoe; 6.30 Rev C MacLeod.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place, EC1: 9M; 11 SM, Andantino (Vierne), Messe, Cum jubilo (Duruflé), Jesu dulcis memoria (Grieg), Toccata in B flat mino (Vierne).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Messa Secunda (Hassler), King Henry's Prayer (Jackson), Rev A Meldrum.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch. *Rev M Robins; 5.45 EP.*

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family Service, Rev D Richards; 6.30 HC, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 MP & HC, Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Rev M Lawrence; 6.30 E, Locus iste (Bruckner), Rev M Lawrence.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev J Yates.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis in G (Mozart), Festival Service (Gutterridge), Rev P Cowell.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev M Johnson; 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis (Anerio), Fr B Scott; 6 E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, New English Hymnal, Rev S Webster; 6 Prayer.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Messe Solennelle St Cecile (Gounod), Since by man came death (Handel), Rev P Wells.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev C Courtauld.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Euch; 11 S Euch, Ave Maria (Stravinsky), Missa à 4 (Monteverdi), Rev J Mayland.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 M; 6.30 E, He shall feed his flock (Handel), Preb M McGowan.

***ST STEPHEN'S**, Gloucester Road, SW7:* 9 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis (Gabrieli), Jubilate Deo (Lassus).

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Salvator Mundi (Tallis), What love is this of Thine (Leighton), Rev L Bryan; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: No services during August — college leave.

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Your moralizing talk is so much dross, your arguments crumble like clay. Be silent, leave me to speak my mind, and let what may come upon me. Job 13 : 12,13

BIRTHS

BARRASS - On 6th August 1997 to Sarah (née Kendell) and Ian, a son, Thomas James Anderson, a brother for Joseph William.

BASILE - On August 4th at The Portland Hospital, to David and Maryellen, a son, Andrew Scott, a brother for Nicholas and Matthew.

BERKAY - On July 24th at The Portland Hospital to Alev and Bulent, a son, Emre.

BEVAN - On 31st July to Susan (née Parker) and James, a daughter, Diana Mary.

BLOOM - On July 30th 1997 to Fionna (née Butler) and Philip, a son, Alexander Ogilvie.

BURLEY - On 30th July 1997 to Philip and Carolyn, a lovely daughter, Camille Rose.

COLAO - On August 4th at The Portland Hospital to Lanie and Daniel, a daughter, Stephanie Rose.

DESMOND - On August 6th to Martha (née Lewthwaite) and Brendan, a daughter, Elsa Georgina, a sister for Fred.

DRUMMOND - To Liz (née Hutchinson) and David - a daughter, Imogen Mary, on 9th July 1997.

ENGLISH - On 30th July to Hannah and Jonathan, a son, Charles Thomas Peter, a brother for Isabel and Camilla.

GREENSTREET - On August 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Angela (née Brown) and Ian, a daughter, Stephanie Adorkor Awula Adjoa.

GRIEVE - On 2nd August, to Bruce and Frances, a son, James Richard, in Auckland, New Zealand.

HOLLAND - On August 2nd 1997 at the Whittington Hospital, Highgate to Sally-Anne (née Murray) and Kelvin, a son, Giles Richard, a brother for Colin.

JONCUS - On August 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Berta and Andrew, a son, Oliver Hempstead, a brother for Gustav.

KENDRICK - On 7th August at St. Mary's, Paddington, to Carolyn (née Morley) and Adam, a daughter, Tabitha Lucy Jane, a sister for Max.

KHAN - Sithan - On August 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Waqar Khan and Asma, a son, a brother for Aniqa.

LOCKE - On August 4th 1997 at Doctor Gray's Hospital, Elgin, to Kathleen (née Vincent) and Alasdair, a son, George Edmonde, a brother for Harry.

LUCAS - On July 28th 1997, to Jane (née Tebbs) and Simon, a son, Henry Alexander.

PAY - On 5th August, at home in Sussex, to Sarah (née Fraser) and Nicholas, a daughter, Fleur Alexandra Louise, a sister to Elise, Laura and Katie.

PIATKOWSKI - On July 22nd 1997, to Gillian and Stephen, a daughter, and to Robert, a new baby sister, Helen Armond.

QUESTED-KHAN - On 30th July 1997, to Rebecca and Jamil, a son, Jacob Samuel.

ROBINSON - On 24th July, to Simon and Elaine, a daughter, Bonnie Kathleen - sister to Saul, Roxie and Isaac.

RUSSELL - On Wednesday 6th August 1997, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, to Jane (née Quinlan) and Robin, a son, Joseph Michael.

SHERWOOD - On Sunday 6th July 1997, to Elizabeth (née Craig) and Geoffrey, a son, James Alexander, a brother for William.

STEPHENSON - Mr and Mrs Stephenson are pleased to announce the birth of their first son, Jonathan George. Born Monday 4th August. Welcome.

TRIMBLE - On 7th August in Toronto, to Katherine (née Sargent) and Charles, a son, Thomas Henry, a brother for Polly, Ben and Alec.

WEISS - On August 5th at the Portland Hospital, to Roland and Emma, a son, Leonard.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

SEALEY:HARFORD - On Saturday 9th August 1947 at St. James' Church, Woodhouse, Edward to Brenda. Blessed with two daughters and three grandsons.

WILLETTS:GRICE - Geoffrey and Beryl on 9th August 1947 at Pedmore Church, Stourbridge. With love from all the family.

DEATHS

BELL - J.K. Stuart. In Ottawa, Canada, on July 3, 1997, after a brief illness, James Kenneth Stuart-Bell of 137 Howick St., Ottawa, Ont. K1M 0G9. Beloved husband of Margaret (Wilson) and loving and much loved father of Alasdair and Catriona.

DEATHS

BOWEN - Suddenly on August 6th 1997 aged 87 years, Millicent Margaret, beloved wife of John Bowen of Wigginton, Oxon. Loving *mother of Charles and* George and the late Hester Willson. Memorial Service to be held at a later date. 0171 411 5559.

CARTER - John Stuart, aged 91 years, late of the King's Regiment, at Bontnewydd, Caernarfon on the 6th of August. Service at Llanfairisgaer Church, Caernarfon Thursday August 14th, committal following at Bangor Crematorium at 1.30pm. Enquiries to (01286) 673072.

ELY - George. Dearest husband of Josephine and father of Maureen, Michael, Geoffrey and Christine. Died peacefully on Friday 8th August aged 90. Funeral Service at Park Road Baptist Church, Rushden, Northants Monday 11th August at 3pm.

FOX - Phoebe Betts aged 97. Peacefully at Ashley Park Nursing Home, West Clandon, Guildford. Funeral 2.15pm, Thursday August 14th at Christ Church, Waterden Road, Guildford. Family flowers. Donations if desired to NSPCC.

HAGUE - On August 4th peacefully in Pembury Hospital Shams-ul aged 77 years. Much loved father and Da-da who will be sadly missed by all. Interment in Tunbridge Wells Cemetery at 2.30 pm on Wednesday August 13th. No flowers by request but donations if desired to The Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o T W Bootman Funeral Service 31 Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 8AA. Tel 01892 541070.

HARLEY - Doctor Theodore John. At Musgrove Park Hospital on 5th August 1997 in his 80th year. Private funeral took place *on 8th August. The family* invites all his friends to a Memorial Service on 20th August at noon at Westonzoyland Church. If desired, donations to Westonzoyland Church Tower Repair Fund, c/o Rev. Peter Richmond, or Taunton Hospital League of Friends.

HOLDEN - On 5th August 1997, Robert Gifford (Roy), aged 88 years, formerly of Sulhamstead, Berkshire. Much loved husband of Rosamond and father of Hilary and Flicki. Funeral Service at Sulhamstead on Tuesday 12th August at 3.00pm. Family flowers, donations to your local scout group.

KUCZYNSKI - Juergen died peacefully at his home in Berlin on August 6th in his 93rd year. His contribution to the study and teaching of economic, social and cultural history will live on in his writings and through those whom he inspired in many lands. He will be greatly missed by four generations of his family in Britain and Germany.

LEES - Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on 8th August 1997, Clementine Grant Stevenson Lees (née Muir), of 3 Drummond Place, Inverness, *beloved wife of* Alan, dearly loved mum of Shona and Iain and a loving granny of Callum and Angus. Funeral Service on Tuesday 12th August at 12 noon in Inverness Crematorium (Large Chapel), to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care may be given at the service or forwarded to D Chisholm & Sons, Funeral *Directors, Huntly Street,* Inverness.

LENEMAN - Adela, died on 4th August 1997. Funeral on Friday 15th August at Shooters Hill Cemetery at 12 noon. Enquiries and floral tributes to F.A. Albin & Son. Tel: 0171 237 3637.

MACKEY - Francis Joseph peacefully at home on August 5th 1997. Dearly beloved husband of Helen, loving father of Stephen and Fay and treasured grandpapa of Eva and Frankie. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Catholic Rescue Society, Parrswood, Didsbury. Evening reception to take place at St. Cuthberts Church, Withington on Monday August 11th at 7pm. Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday at 9.30am followed by committal at Manchester Crematorium at 10.30am. All funeral enquiries to Co-op Funeral Service, Chorlton. Tel: 0161 881 2212.

MURRAY - Peacefully on 7th August 1997 at Borders General Hospital, after a short illness, Doris Herbert (née Green), aged 77 years. *Devoted wife of Patrick and* loving mother of Elizabeth (Salvesen) and Susan (Donald), and much-loved grandmother of Rachel, John, Venetia and George. Funeral Service at 11.00am on Monday 11th August at Bedrule Church, Near Denholm.

RICHTER - Beryl. On 7th August 1997 in Cambridge. Service at St. Bene't's, Bene't's Lane, Cambridge on Thursday 14th August at 2.30pm. All friends welcome.

RUMENS - On 5th August 1997, Dorothy Margaret Rumens (née White) wife of the late Murray James Rumens BSC FRSC, one time Principal Scientific Officer, Chemical Defence Experimental Establishment, Porton, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Funeral Service at Chelmsford Crematorium on Thursday 14th August at 2.15pm. Enquiries. 01787 461138.

SMITH - Derek Campbell. On August 5th 1997. Much loved husband of Alison, devoted father of Katharine, Richard, Rupert and Alexander. Founder of VIRSA. Family funeral. Service of Thanksgiving at Sydney Farm, Halstock on September 12th at 12.00pm.

STEPHENS - William Lawson (Billie) on 3rd August 1997 aged 85 at his home in Chateauneuf de Grasse after a short illness. Cremation has in accordance with his wishes taken place at Nice on Thursday 7th August.

STONER - At Castle Grove, Bampton on Friday 1st August 1997, peacefully after a short illness, Mollie Stoner of The Old Post *Office, Morebath, Devon.* Dear mother of Francis and grandmother to Edmund and Laurence. Requiem Mass at St. James's R.C. Church, Old Road, Tiverton, at 2.00pm 12th August, followed by a short Thanksgiving for her life at Morebath Church and interment there at 3.30p.m. Family flowers only please, but donations to Morebath Church Restoration Fund may be made, c/o Walter H. Squires & Son, 11 Wellbrook *Street, Tiverton, Devon,* EX16 5JW (01884 252556), or by retiring collection. R.I.P.

TYNDALE - Gladys (Nickie). Passed away in Ireland after a short illness on August 8th 1997 aged 71 years. Beloved wife of Tim and much loved mother of Jill, Paul, Lynda and Mark. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends in Canada, England, Ireland and France. Private family funeral. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Save the Children Fund to 17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 8RD.

VANN - On August 3rd 1997 Major John Noel Patrick Vann of Weston-Sub-Edge, Gloucestershire, peacefully in hospital aged 71 years. Beloved husband of the late Mary, and the late Alma, and also much loved father. The funeral service has taken place. Any enquiries to Philip Tomlins Funeral Directors. Tel: 01386 765138.

WILDER - William S. Wilder, Honorary Consul of Sao Tome and Principe and President of The Consular Corps of London passed away *suddenly* on August 6th, 1997. Much loved husband of Irene and father of Jeffrey and Lorraine.

YOUNG - Alex, passed away peacefully after a short illness on 4th August in Hamburg, Germany. Much loved by his wife Monica, his sons Alex and Dougal, his family and all who knew him. He shall be greatly missed. Funeral at Halle 2, Friedhof Ojendorf, Hamburg on 13th August.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

CHAPPELL - Dominic Simon James 10.8.1969-April 1994. Kidnapped - killed in Cambodia.

FOX - Phoebe Betts. Dearly loved friend of Mary Eggleston.

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OBITUARIES

PETER ASHMORE

Peter Ashmore, theatre director, died in Cork on July 26 aged 81. He was born in London on January 29, 1916.

Peter Ashmore, who died only two days before his former wife, the actress Rosalie Crutchley (whose obituary appeared in *The Times* on July 31), had a theatrical career of less than 30 years; he retired in 1961 when he was only 45. For eight of those years, however, he was among the busiest directors in the West End theatre, staging plays by Ibsen, Chekhov, Shaw and Jean Anouilh, as well as Pinero's *Trelawney of the Wells*, Tom Robertson's *Caste* and such light comedies as *To Dorothy a Son* (by Roger MacDougall), in which the young Richard Attenborough agitated about the stage while Sheila Sim sat in bed as the eponymous Dorothy waiting for her waters to break.

Eric Peter Ashmore grew up in North London. He entered the theatre in 1934 and appeared as an actor at Stratford-on-Avon and a number of what we would now call "fringe" theatres. In 1941 he was appointed director of the Oxford Repertory Theatre, where he met and wooed one of the leading players, Rosalie Crutchley; they were married in 1946.

There, for five years, with a company that also included Pamela Brown, Peter Copley, Yvonne Mitchell, Francis L. Sullivan and Isabel Dean (who died the day before her close friend Rosalie Crutchley and whose obituary was published in *The Times* on August 6), Ashmore went through the mill.

A maximum of a week's rehearsal was the norm, whether for *Romeo and Juliet* or *The Seagull*, *Gaslight* or *The School for Scandal*. It was a regime which could make for superficial results; but, for artists of character, it served to focus attention on the essentials, and for many years it made stage acting one of the strengths of British culture — a strength which, with the withering of subsidies and the decline of the repertory system, has since been compromised.

The repertory theatre in the 1940s could boast a number of directors of high achievement — William Armstrong at Liverpool, A.R. Whatmore in Edinburgh, H.M. Prentice in Northampton — whose careers were pursued entirely in the provinces. Peter Ashmore was lucky. Kitty Black of Binkie Beaumont's H.M. Tennent management had seen several of his productions; and after directing a *Hamlet* and a *Pygmalion* for the Old Vic at the base it had established in Liverpool during the Second World War, Ashmore was called to London in 1946. In the next eight years he was employed on 19 productions, all but two of them in the West End.

Ashmore belonged to a generation of directors whose aim was not to place their individual stamp on plays but, without egregious acts of directorial interpretation, to let the playwrights speak through the actors.

Among the productions which had caught Kitty Black's attention had been *Hedda Gabler* (also seen by the critic James Agate, who pronounced the Hedda, Pamela Brown, to be a new Sarah Bernhardt). It followed naturally enough that much of Ashmore's London career was given over to creating circumstances in which star actors could do their thing.

In that capacity he served John Mills in André Roussin's *Figure of Fun*; Michael Denison and Dulcie Gray in Jan de Hartog's *The Fourposter*; Mai Zetterling and Dirk Bogarde in Anouilh's *Point of Departure*; and Robert Morley, both in the actor-writer's own substantial *Edward my Son*, and in the French boulevard comedy *Hippo Dancing* which Morley had adapted as a vehicle for himself. Less successful was Ashmore's Festival of Britain *Three Sisters*, with Ralph Richardson, Celia Johnson, Margaret Leighton, Renée Asherson and Diana Churchill leading a superb cast that never quite became a team.

But there can be no doubts about the subtlety and power of the 1954 revival of *Hedda Gabler*, this time with Peggy Ashcroft catching every nuance of Hedda, Alan Badel in full rhetorical flight as the ruined Ejlert Lövborg, George Devine cherubically unaware as Tesman, and Micheál Mac Liammóir coaxed from Dublin to create a Judge Brack of satanic punctiliousness (on his first entrance, he shot his cuffs and made a swift salute, his forefinger *touching the tip of* his nose, so that a diplomat's *politesse* was tinged with schoolboy insolence).

Peter Ashmore and his first wife, the actress Rosalie Crutchley

However, Ashmore seems to have been at odds with his remarkable cast, some of whom turned pointedly for counsel to Devine, who must therefore take some of the credit for what ultimately reached the stage. To have had even a part share in a production which, for many, remains definitive, is to have achieved something considerable; but the rebuff must have been painful.

And Ashmore's world was changing. He and Rosalie Crutchley parted, she joining Devine's first English Stage Company season to play a magisterial Elizabeth Proctor in the English premiere of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*.

In the six years that followed *Hedda*, Ashmore staged only four plays in England, only one of them in the West End. When the faithful Robert Morley persuaded him to direct Ronald Gow's play about Cecil Rhodes, the production went no further than Windsor.

From the late 1940s onwards, Ashmore had worked occasionally in the US. In 1958, for instance, in an episode that might have furnished rich material for P. G. Wodehouse but which probably seemed less than wholly amusing at the time, he found himself directing Errol Flynn in a strife-ridden pre-Broadway regional tour of *The Master of Thornfield*, an adaptation of *Jane Eyre* written, financed and all too closely overseen by a grocery millionaire named Huntington Hartford. The play received dismal reviews, and before it reached New York had lost both its director and its star, with Flynn declaring as he walked out that "this show is no more fit for Broadway than Jack and the Beanstalk"; the author seemed undaunted.

With theatrical experiences such as that behind him, it was perhaps not surprising that Ashmore was prepared, without apparent regret, to take charge of the family undertaking business in 1961, after the deaths first of his father and then of his brother. He ran the firm for a number of years, before moving to Ireland in the 1970s.

Peter Ashmore and Rosalie Crutchley were divorced in 1959. He is survived by his second wife, Petra, and by the children of his first marriage: Catherine Ashmore, the theatre and ballet photographer, and Jonathan, professor of physiology at University College London.

JANE HWANG

Jane Hwang (Hwang Hsien Yun), priest, died on July 25 aged 80. She was born on February 25, 1917.

WHEN Gilbert Baker, Bishop of Hong Kong and Macao, attended the Lambeth Conference in 1968, he joined the discussions taking place there about the future of women's ministry. His contribution was positive and clear. He had, he said, "a very outstanding deaconess" in charge of Holy Trinity, one of Hong Kong's largest parishes. And, he went on, "she is there because she is the best person for the job". He was referring to Jane Hwang, who in 1971 would become the first Chinese woman to be ordained priest in Hong Kong.

Jane Hwang was born in Kwangtung Province in China, into an old-fashioned, conservative family. At five, she began studying the Chinese classics, before going, at nine, to an Anglican primary school. Her grandmother wanted her to stay at home after completing her primary education, but she rebelled, refusing to be bound by tradition for the rest of her life.

She entered St Paul's Girls' School in Hong Kong, and began to attend St Paul's church. Her family objected to her attending morning worship, and her father used to beat her on her return home, and would not allow her to have any lunch. Even so, the vicar, the Reverend Paul Ts'o, eventually agreed to baptise her, when she was 13.

Jane Hwang later felt that her baptism had helped her to be less headstrong in regard to her parents; she was able to use the lessons of her own experience to support and encourage young Chinese students interested in following Christ despite their parents' opposition to their change of religion. In fact, her own father and his wives were eventually baptised in later life.

She was confirmed at 14. She went to Canton for her senior secondary course and attended the Union Theological Seminary there. The Japanese advance in 1939 interrupted her studies, but she was able to join Hwa Chung University, a refugee university then situated in southwest China. She graduated in theology and education, which she followed, after the war, with a master's degree at Columbia University.

She returned to China to teach scripture and history in Wuchang, but six months after the Communist takeover went back to Hong Kong to teach the same subjects at the Hong Kong True Light School. Seven years later, in 1957, Bishop R. O. Hall asked her to work in the Anglican Church, as principal of St Thomas' primary school, and he placed her in charge of St Thomas' church. In 1958, he ordained her as a deacon, in holy orders, but outside her diocese she was known as a deaconess.

From 1957 to 1966, the St Thomas' church congregation grew rapidly, with many baptised — at one time 100 were prepared for baptism. Jane Hwang would hold three separate baptism services, so that each candidate would fully understand the spiritual significance of baptism. In 1965, the new church building of St Thomas' was completed under her direction.

In 1966 she was awarded a bursary for a year's sabbatical leave, with the opportunity to travel the world, demonstrating to the worldwide Anglican Community what Bishop Hall saw as the potential of women ordained in holy orders.

Jane Hwang believed that both women and men should be given the opportunity to serve the Lord in ministry, and by the end of the 1960s had come to feel that ordination of women to the priesthood was the correct path for the Church to take. She herself took that step on Advent Sunday, November 28, 1971, after the Anglican Consultative Council, meeting at Limuru, had agreed that the Bishop of Hong Kong and Macao could ordain women to the priesthood if his diocesan synod agreed.

The congregation at Holy Trinity church, where Jane Hwang was vicar from 1967 (after her sabbatical), welcomed the decision, as did the vast majority of clergy and lay people in the diocese. She continued in this large parish for five more years, as well as remaining principal of the Anglican Yeuk Wing primary school. At the age of 59, however, she returned as vicar once more to the smaller St Thomas' church, where she remained for a further six years.

Even then, she continued to serve the diocese, and represented the bishop on the Anglican Primary Schools Council from 1982 to 1989. She was, during those years, also the senior chaplain to the Diocesan Women's League. On retirement, she was appointed an honorary canon of St John's Cathedral in Hong Kong.

ANTONIA BUTLER

Antonia Butler, cellist, died on July 19 aged 88. She was born on June 1, 1909.

ANTONIA BUTLER belonged to the generation of hugely characterful British cellists and pedagogues born near the beginning of the century, which includes Florence Hooton, Amaryllis Fleming and Joan Dixon. A much-loved teacher at the Royal College of Music and the Menuhin School, and a highly esteemed performer, she leaves behind several generations of musicians touched by her exceptional musical integrity.

Antonia Katharine Margaret Butler was born into a musical family with a cosmopolitan outlook. Although she became something of a British institution, her greatest musical influences were continental. As a child she remembered playing with the famous Hungarian violinist sisters, Jelly and Adila d'Aranyi. It was through a recommendation from the d'Aranyis that she took the highly unusual step of going to Leipzig, at the age of 13, to study with the legendary Julius Klengel.

She was very young to attend the conservatoire, and perhaps because of her youth, those years made the most lasting impression on her. It was not just the importance of Klengel's teaching that shaped her, though that did enable her to develop her own musicality; it was being immersed in German music and tradition in the very place where Bach, Mendelssohn and Wagner had been before her. And her sense that Leipzig's citizens, even those outside the profession, were knowledgeable and cared passionately about music, touched her deeply.

She followed this with three years of study at the Paris Ecole Normale with the great cellist and musical analyst Diran Alexanian, whose classes attracted Pablo Casals, Emanuel Feuermann and other well-known musicians of the day. Armed with this formidable training, she returned to England and made her debut at the Wigmore Hall in 1930. Solo engagements followed and in 1937 she formed the Kamaran Trio with Marjorie Hayward and Kathleen Markwell. Her colleague and friend the violinist Maria Lidka, described her playing as having "above all great vigour, as well as deep tenderness, rock-solid rhythm, impeccable phrasing and absolute dedication to the composers wishes".

She married the pianist and organist Norman Greenwood in 1941. He was called up the day after their wedding, but on his return from service the two gave many recitals together, often broadcast by the BBC. During the war Butler was also one of the many artists who played at Myra Hess's National Gallery Concerts. On one memorable occasion in 1941 she and others entertained a Prom audience through the night until the "all clear" signal was given, hours after her own concert had finished. She continued to keep up her close contacts in Europe; one close friend was Arthur Honegger, whose Sonata she performed in Paris with his wife at the piano.

When her husband died in 1962, she began to perform less as teaching activities took over, at the Yehudi Menuhin School, the Birmingham School of Music and as a professor at the Royal College of Music, and it is as a teacher that she will be remembered by many thriving cellists today. She was an acute listener, and a demanding mentor, though she was always receptive to alternative solutions, provided that they made musical sense.

Moreover, as a former student remembered, "her close personal interest in her pupils did not stop when you walked out of the door". When one pupil had a left-hand injury, far from abandoning her, Butler continued to give her fascinating bowing lessons, discussed her condition with the surgeon and advised her on what to do when the cello

was no longer an option. Christina Shillito and Martin Loveday are just two of the active cellists on the British music scene today who learnt with Butler.

Music and spiritual interests absorbed her totally, material things not at all, and nature was a lifelong inspiration. She took great pleasure in playing music with her son, the pianist Richard Greenwood, to whom she was very close, and her great friend Maria Lidka, and in listening to them perform together.

Her son survives her.

ON THIS DAY

August 9, 1910

Before vaunting the pleasures of gypsy travel, the author launched a scathing attack on wayside pubs and hotels.

CARAVANNING

(From A Correspondent)

Why is it that the Briton, the most devoted globe-trotter in the world, travels so little in his own country? Patient investigation has found a practical explanation in the quality of English inns. By no ordinary method of travel, on foot, on cycle, on horseback, or by motor, can you escape them. The British tavern is permeated and dominated by its bar. The reek of it rides to you on every draught, the clamour of it drifts through every chink and doorway. The landlord's sole ambition seems to be the sale of dull beer and scorching spirit. It is with the utmost difficulty that you lure him from his sloppy counter to take your order for food. And how lamentable the results. Very often the larder can rise no higher than a hunk of rasping Canadian cheese, a stale and mutilated loaf, and a saucerful of debauched and almost fluid butter. On these you feed in a cold and arid chamber uninvitingly furnished with a bagatelle board, some tottering deal chairs, and an occasional spittoon: your bedroom presents even fewer attractions: if the house is old it will be low-ceilinged, small-windowed, dark, and irremediably stuffy. If the house be new, your room may be airier, but you will find it damp, noisy, dismally upholstered, and cruelly decorated. As you rise from tavern to hotel the influence of the bar weakens, liquor ceases to be the dominating factor — nutriment and sleep become possible, though they are not made attractive. Who does not know the unvarying routine of a commercial inn ? — the slab of unyielding beef, which, assisted with a few acrid pickles and followed by a plateful of stringy rhubarb, is the substance of your lunch; the relentless chop, which defies the blandishments of Worcester sauce and the assaults of mortal cutlery at dinner; the rank bacon and impenetrable egg that await your descent from the stuffy pomposity of your bedroom; the amazing bill that saddens your departure . . .

There is an eminent divine who takes the road with his entire household in a fashion truly patriarchal. In the van, which is a roomy vehicle, drawn by two stout nags, travel his butler (who acts as cook, groom, valet, and engineer), his nurse, and two children. He himself rides with his wife on horseback. Every evening two tents are run up, in one of which sleeps his reverence, in the other his major domo, while the van itself shelters the nurse and children. About them the horses are picketed, and a large dog roams for a menace to intruders. So they wander in great freedom and contentment through many a spring and summer holiday . . .

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NEWS

Footballers face £750,000 bill

■ Three footballers accused of match rigging have been left with legal bills totalling nearly £750,000 even though they were cleared of all charges after a nine-week retrial.

John Fashanu, the England striker turned millionaire businessman, who declined to defend himself throughout the investigation and two trials, faces a £650,000 bill after the trial judge said he had brought suspicion on himself .... **Pages 1, 5, 21**

Princess avoids the speculation

■ Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday put the speculation about her private life behind her and flew to Bosnia to concentrate on her public role, visiting victims of landmines .... **Page 1**

Major revival

John Major is planning a brief but lucrative comeback on the world stage .... **Page 1**

Weather conundrums

Freakish weather divided Britain in two, with ruined holidays in some places and record temperatures in others .... **Page 1**

Glimmer of hope

The threat of beheading for two British nurses in Saudi Arabia receded after an Australian court's ruling .... **Page 3**

Yachtsman's bravery

A woman whose car plunged into a marina, trapping her 20 ft under water, was saved by a yachtsman who dived in with an aqualung and forced oxygen into her mouth as he freed her .... **Page 3**

Churches failing

Clergy and congregations are failing to help a new generation to find God, according to Dr George Carey .... **Pages 8, 12**

Pass rates up again

A-level pass rates are expected to rise again, fuelled by a doubling of modular papers .... **Page 6**

Deer poachers

Highland gamekeepers are introducing 24-hour watches to combat deer shootings .... **Pages 7, 20**
Weekend, page 1

Couple cleared

A wealthy American couple who spent seven months in a Caribbean jail were acquitted of murder in St Vincent .... **Page 11**

Heavy landing

Vasili Tsibliyev, the outgoing commander of the crippled Russian space station Mir, faces heavy criticismn .... **Page 14**

Aga Khan backs out

The Aga Khan is withdrawing his investment in the Costa Smeralda rich people's Sardinian playground, Italian newspapers reported .... **Page 16**

Female chimps know their place

■ Female chimpanzees are not as docile and egalitarian as they appear. Behind the net curtains of chimp society, they are as interested in social status as any housewife on an executive estate, with a clearly defined hierarchy .... **Pages 16, 21**

JOHN HOULIHAN

The Studley Royal water gardens, transformed into a pleasure garden in the 18th-century style, will be open to the public this evening

OPINION

One hundred days: There was a time when political eras were measured in decades or at least the length of an administration. In the soundbite era a stretch of 14 weeks is deemed sufficient for celebration .... **Page 21**

Crying foul: So long as footballers can act as consultants to gambling organisations, suspicions of a conflict of interest can arise .... **Page 21**

LETTERS

Croatia's attitude to refugees; head lice and return of the nit *nurse* .... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

Max Beloff: Compared with the threatened destruction of the unity of the kingdom, playing around with the *House of Lords* might be seen as a minor folly. But it illustrates the shallowness of the whole current approach to reform .... **Page 20**

Clive Aslet: Country people fear mentality differences they see between themselves and Westminster...... **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Peter Ashmore, theatre director; **Antonia Butler,** cellist .... **Page 23**

BUSINESS

United Utilities: Further institutional unrest emerged at the water and electricity utility in the Northwest.. **Page 25**

Woolwich: The Woolwich could face paying thousands of pounds of compensation if a legal action proposed by the disgruntled son of a shareholder in the newly converted bank is successful .... **Page 25**

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 55.5 points, to close at 5031.3. The sterling index fell from 102.8 to 101.3 after a fall from $1.5859 to $1.5787 and from DM2.9707 to DM2.9249............... **Page 28**

SPORT

Cricket: England were 188 for four in reply to Australia's *first innings 427 in the fifth* Test .... **Page 42**

Athletics: Jonathan Edwards, finishing second in the triple jump, won Britain's fourth silver medal in Athens .... **Page 40**

Football: Graeme Le Saux has joined Chelsea for £5 million .... **Page 48**

CAR 97

Ford's Edsel is reputed to be *the turkey of turkeys.* **Guy Walters** is kind to the infamous flop

ARTS

Edinboro festival: "Twenty years ago, people really did shout: 'Get down to Venue 82, man; there's an Estonian *Troilus* that will *blow your mind*'." But no longer, says Richard Morrison .... **Page 18**

Wilde thing: Peter Hall's *An Ideal Husband* is back in the West End .. **Page 18**

Something's coming: Forty years after *West Side Story* exploded on to Broadway, Alan Johnson *is recreating* the Jerome Robbins production in Britain............... **Page 19**

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Streets of gold 8
100 best footballers: ... 14
She's gotta name it: 22
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Weekend

Glorious Twelfth: Not just for big shots ..... **Pages 1, 2**

Property: PR guru homes; period houses....**Pages 7, 8**
Home life: The Royals and godparents.......... **Page 12**

10 15

Annabel Levy: Striking while Owen's hot .. **Page 6**
Caring for bears: . **Page 8**
That's shobiz: ..... **Page 10**

Shock opera: Modern opera's conventions .. **Page 4**
Books: .... **Pages 9-14**
What's on: .... **Pages 15-22**
TV guide: .... **Page 23**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,554

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

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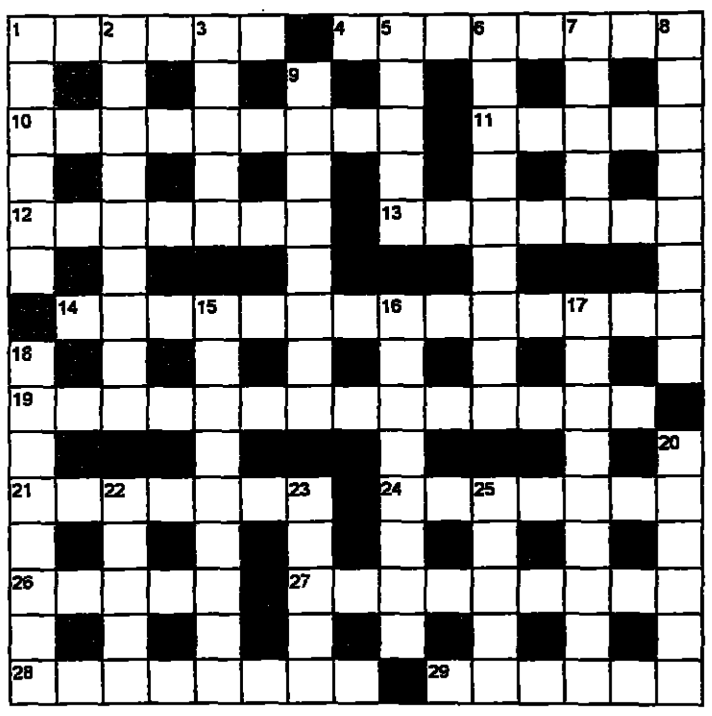

ACROSS

1 *Leading lady's crime* (6).
4 Careless mistakes by carrier (8).
10 Financial manager, having to negotiate endlessly with money-lender, losing head (9).
11 *To depose king initially creates* stir (5).
12 Spots group of soldiers retreating when it's taken over (7).
13 Detective's bloomer (7).
14 Don't be offended – advice to curate at breakfast? (4.2.4.4).
19 Here tiny cattle roam – so we hear (3.7.4).
21 It's a mistake entrusting money to *Australian bounder* (7).
24 Clever use of ball steals set back (3-4).
26 Frequently front of cushion comes off (5).
27 *Lost trousers have finally turned* up (9).
28 Poison inside pleasing round container (8).
29 Rebuffed admirer's temperature beginning to rise (6).

DOWN

1 Flora's young *man carrying towel* (6).
2 Dog running amok in tea garden (5,4).
3 Notes and letters from abroad I start to cumulate (5).
5 Poetic performance from player since ignoring the odds (5).
6 *Doctor's assistant Eugene and* Edward put in picture, briefly (9).
7 Beautiful woman appearing on current occasion (5).
8 Set off from college in time (8).
9 It's likely one's inside? Right (8).
15 Site meant for redevelopment as a cafe (9).
16 *False teeth are readily available* (2,1,5).
17 What translates into "tapas"? (9).
18 Persistent objections raised to 50% of boys joining navy (8).
20 *The purpose of camping* (6).
22 One's employed in a pub to sell one short (5).
23 Some clearer announcers broadcast again (5).
25 Saw international banker (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,548

J	A	W	B	R	E	A	K	E	R		A	N	N	A
O		I		E		B		M				E		B
E	N	C	Y	C	L	I	C	A	L		A	G	E	S
Y		K		O		D		C		A		L		O
			S	L	E	E	P	I	N	G	P	I	L	L
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I	N	E	L	E	G	A	N	T		I	D	I	O	T
S		D		C		R		E		C		B		I
T	A	I	N	T		R	E	D	O	U	B	L	E	S
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U		W		N		R		U		U		N		B
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F		V				O		I		A		K		N
S	M	E	E		S	T	A	T	E	L	I	E	S	T

Solution to Puzzle No 20,553

M	O	T	H	E	R	S	U	P	E	R	I	O	R	
A		O		B		E		O		E		R		D
R	E	C	T	O	R	A	T	E		D	E	L	H	I
C		C		N		S		T		P		A		A
H	E	A	V	Y		H	A	R	D	L	I	N	E	R
I		T				O		Y		A		D		Y
N	O	A	H	S	A	R	K		I	N	T	O	T	O
G				E		E		M		E				F
O	P	T	I	C	S		V	I	C	T	O	R	I	A
R		O		O		S		D				E		N
D	O	M	I	N	I	C	A	N		M	A	C	A	O
E		B		D		O		I		E		I		B
R	I	O	J	A		R	I	G	O	L	E	T	T	O
S		L		R		C		H		E		A		D
	L	A	D	Y	C	H	A	T	T	E	R	L	E	Y

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *D Bates, Hexham, Northumberland; B Tate, Hartburn, Stockton-on-Tees; P E Dockery, London; S L Bickmore, Highcliffe, Dorset; D Goy, Alwoodley, Leeds*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.37 am	8.35 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
10.58 pm	11.53 am

First quarter August 11

London 8.35 pm to 5.38 am
Bristol 8.44 pm to 5.48 am
Edinburgh 9.03 pm to 5.34 am
Manchester 8.50 pm to 5.40 am
Penzance 8.52 pm to 6.04 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.38 am	8.32 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
10.25 pm	11.53 am

First quarter tomorrow

London 8.33 pm to 5.40 am
Bristol 8.42 pm to 5.50 am
Edinburgh 9.01 pm to 5.36 am
Manchester 8.48 pm to 5.41 am
Penzance 8.50 pm to 6.05 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	06.09	6.7	18.19	6.5
Aberdeen	05.30	3.9	19.01	3.7
Avonmouth	11.22	11.6	23.35	11.5
Belfast	03.09	3.4	15.30	3.1
Cardiff	11.08	10.8	23.21	10.7
Devonport	09.51	5.0	22.05	5.1
Dover	03.00	6.0	15.18	6.2
Dublin (N Wall)	03.50	3.8	16.12	3.6
Falmouth	09.22	4.8	21.36	4.9
Greenock	04.33	3.4	17.11	3.1
Harwich	03.55	3.7	16.09	3.7
Holyhead	02.21	5.1	14.46	4.9
Hull (Albert D)	10.31	7.1	22.58	7.8
Ilfracombe	10.09	8.0	22.21	8.0
King's Lynn	10.32	6.0	23.00	5.6
Leith	07.00	5.0	19.23	4.9
Liverpool	02.13	8.6	15.34	8.3
Lowestoft	01.48	2.2	13.48	2.4
Margate	04.11	[illegible]	16.21	4.4
Milford Haven	10.25	6.1	22.40	6.1
Newquay	09.19	6.1	21.35	6.2
Oban	10.00	3.4	22.01	3.4
Penzance	08.48	4.9	21.03	4.9
Portland	10.59	1.5	23.03	1.5
Portsmouth	03.15	4.2	15.43	4.3
Shoreham	03.09	5.5	15.29	5.6
Southampton	02.51	4.2	15.12	4.2
Swansea	10.30	8.4	22.43	8.3
Tees	07.52	4.3	20.27	4.6
Walton-on-N	03.53	3.8	16.03	3.8

All times BST. Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: London Weather Centre 31C (88F); **lowest day max:** Fair Isle 15C (59F); **highest rainfall:** Exmouth, Devon, 1.04in; **highest sunshine:** Morecambe, Lancashire, 14.2hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 42.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a mostly fine, hot day with any early fog soon clearing. However, it will be very humid *inland with one or two isolated thunder*storms late in the day. The coastal fringes will be a little cooler. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be much more cloudy with sprinkles of rain, although the southeastern fringes should have a little warm sunshine, and it may clear up in the far North West.

Tonight, any thundery showers will die out to leave England and Wales fine, but uncomfortably muggy with some fog patches by dawn. *Scotland and Northern* Ireland will be rather cloudy with a little rain in central and northern areas.

☐ ***London, E Midlands, W Midlands,*** **Central N:** hot and humid with long sunny spells. A light wind. Max 31C (88F).

☐ **SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** warm with sunny spells, but coasts will be misty. A light wind with sea breezes. Max 27C (81F) but cooler near coasts.

☐ **E Anglia, E England, NE England:** sultry, but cooler near coasts. Light winds with onshore breezes. *Max 29C (84F).*

☐ ***N Wales, NW England, Lake District,*** **Isle of Man:** very warm with hazy sunshine. A light wind. Max 28C (82F), but several *degrees lower on coasts.*

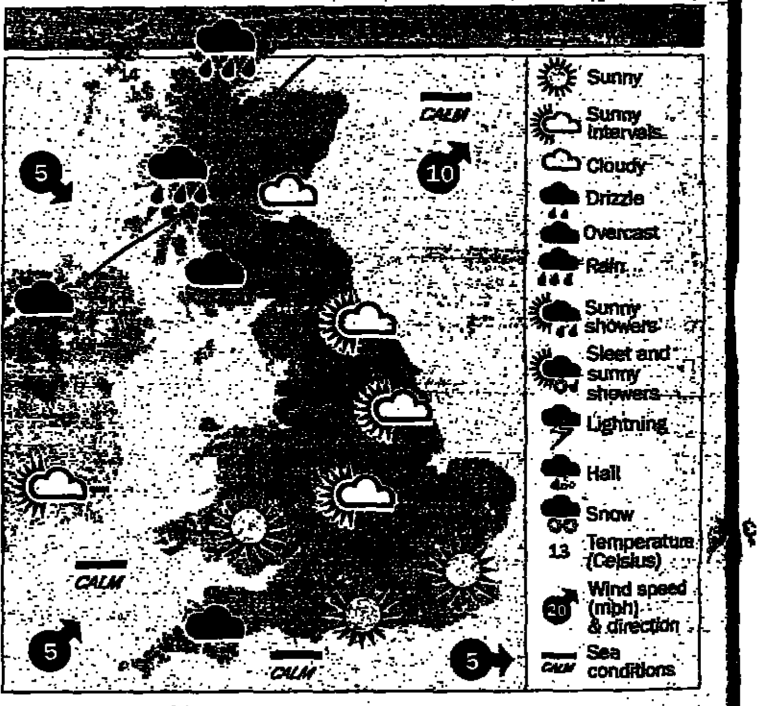
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland:** mainly cloudy with spots of rain, but some drier and brighter interludes and fairly warm. A light southwest wind. Max 21C (70F).

☐ **Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, N Ireland:** cloudy with a little showery rain, more especially over the hills. A light to moderate southerly wind. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **NW Scotland:** cloudy with showery rain, especially over the hills. Perhaps drier and brighter later. A light to moderate southerly wind, turning northwesterly. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** rain petering out. A light southwest wind, later northwesterly. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Outlook:** a good deal of hot and sunny weather on Sunday with rain over Scotland and Northern Ireland retreating northwards. Monday will bring some thundery *downpours.*



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

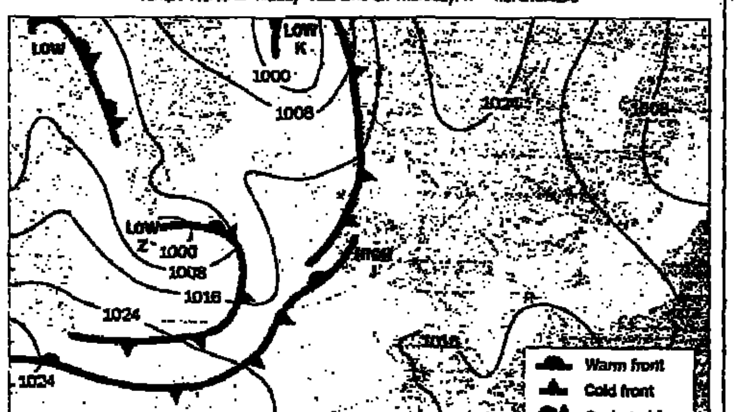
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	9.7	-	24	75	s	*Leuchars*	5.2	-	24	75	fg
Anglesey	11.9	-	22	72	s	Littlehmptn	8.8	-	25	77	s
Aspatria	13.3	-	27	81	s	London	11.7	-	31	88	s
Aviemore	6.4	-	24	75	b	Lowestoft	12.6	-	22	72	s
Belfast	11.2	0.01	25	77	s	Manchester	X				
Birmingham	11.1	-	29	84	s	Margate	12.7	-	27	81	s
Bognor R	8.1	-	27	81	s	Minehead	9.4	-	24	75	s
Bournem'th	10.2	-	24	75	s	Morecambe	14.2	-	28	82	s
Bristol	9.5	-	29	84	s	Newcastle	13.2	-	28	82	s
Buxton	12.7	-	27	81	s	Newquay	X	X	X	X	
Cardiff	9.2	-	25	77	s	Norwich	13.7	-	28	82	s
Clacton	X	-	20	68	s	Oxford	10.0	-	30	86	s
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	X	-	24	75	s
Colwyn Bay	12.1	-	24	75	s	Poole	X				
Cromer	13.6	-	23	73	s	Prestatyn	X	-	29	84	s
Dunbar	11.0	-	29	84	s	Ross-on-Wye	9.2	0.02	28	82	s
Eastbourne	9.3	0.01	25	77	s	Salcombe	4.6	-	23	73	b
Edinburgh	7.6	-	28	82	b	Saunton Snd	5.5	-	23	73	s
Eskdalemuir	13.8	-	25	77	s	Scarboro'	10.3	-	24	75	s
Exmouth	5.2	1.04	21	70	s	Shrewsbury	8.9	-	28	82	s
Falmouth	6.9	-	23	73	s	Skegness	12.1	-	21	70	s
Fishguard	5.6	0.01	24	75	b	Southend	13.0	-	27	81	s
Folkestone	12.5	-	25	77	s	Southport	13.7	-	28	82	s
Glasgow	9.2	-	26	79	b	Southsea	12.2	-	23	73	s
Guernsey	6.9	0.02	24	75	s	Stornoway	2.4	0.04	16	61	r
Hastings	9.9	-	24	75	s	Swanage	7.6	0.01	24	75	s
Hayling I.	7.8	-	23	73	s	Teignmouth	6.6	0.26	21	70	s
Herne Bay	12.8	-	28	82	s	*Tenby*	5.4	0.01	21	70	b
Hove	8.3	-	22	72	s	Tiree	2.5	-	18	64	c
Hunstanton	13.4	-	24	75	s	Torquay	5.8	-	25	77	s
Isle of Man	13.3	-	21	70	s	Tynemouth	X	-	19	66	b
Isle of Wight	8.6	-	25	77	s	*West-s-mare*	9.5	-	26	79	s
Jersey	9.4	-	25	77	s	Weymouth	-	0.01	19	66	b
Kinloss	5.9	-	27	81	b						
Leeds	X										
Lerwick	2.4	0.01	15	59	du						

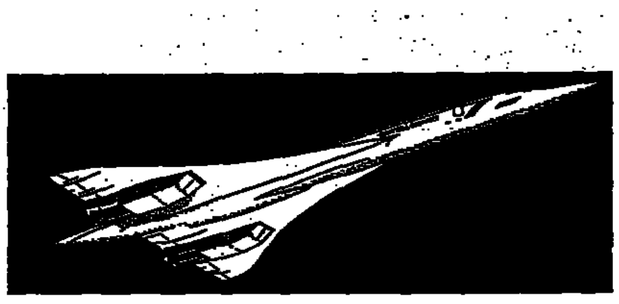
ABROAD

Ajaccio	28	82	f	Corfu	28	82	s	Majorca	30	86	s	Rome	28	82	s
Akrotiri	30	86	s	C'phagn	25	77	s	Malaga	29	84	s	S Fr'sco	22	72	s
Alex'dria	30	86	f	Dublin	17	63	c	Malta	32	90	s	S Paulo	26	79	f
Algiers	31	88	s	Dubrovnik	26	79	s	Melb'rne	14	57	c	Salzburg	25	77	s
Amst'dm	27	81	s	Faro	23	73	f	Mexico C	22	72	f	Santiago	21	70	s
Athens	32	90	s	Florence	31	88	s	Miami	34	93	s	Seoul	32	90	f
B Aires	12	54	s	Frankfurt	27	81	s	Milan	28	82	f	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	37	99	s	Funchal	24	75	s	Montreal	24	75	s	St'kholm	26	79	f
Bangkok	32	90	s	Geneva	26	79	f	Moscow	22	72	f	Strasb'rg	26	79	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	24	75	s	Munich	25	77	f	Sydney	19	66	f
Barcelona	28	82	f	Helsinki	27	81	s	N Delhi	32	90	f	Tangier	23	73	f
Beirut	30	86	f	Hong K	27	81	f	N York	26	79	s	Tel Aviv	30	86	s
Belgrade	24	75	f	Innsbrck	24	75	f	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tenerife	25	77	s
Berlin	24	75	f	Istanbul	29	84	s	Naples	31	88	s	Tokyo	31	88	s
Bermuda	*29*	*84*	*f*	*Jeddah*	*40*	*104*	*s*	*Nice*	*27*	*81*	*s*	Toronto	27	81	f
Biarritz	23	73	s	Jo'burg	15	59	s	Oslo	27	81	s	Tunis	35	95	s
Borde'x	24	75	f	L Angels	26	79	s	Paris	26	79	f	Valencia	29	84	f
Brussels	27	81	s	L Palmas	25	77	f	Peking	26	79	c	Vanc'ver	20	68	s
Budapst	26	79	f	Le Touqet	20	68	f	Perth	17	63	c	Venice	27	81	f
Cairo	32	90	s	Lisbon	25	77	f	Prague	22	72	f	Vienna	25	77	f
Cape Tn	15	59	s	Locarno	22	72	f	Reykjavik	11	52	r	Warsaw	22	72	f
Ch'church	7	45	s	Luxembg	25	77	c	Rhodes	30	86	s	Wash'ton	X		
Chicago	24	75	s	Luxor	38	100	s	Rio de J	30	86	f	Wel'ngton	10	50	x
Cologne	27	81	s	Madrid	26	79	f	Riyadh	39	102	s	Zurich	24	75	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low K will move north and fill; high J will move east and decline as low Z transfers east with little change in central pressure



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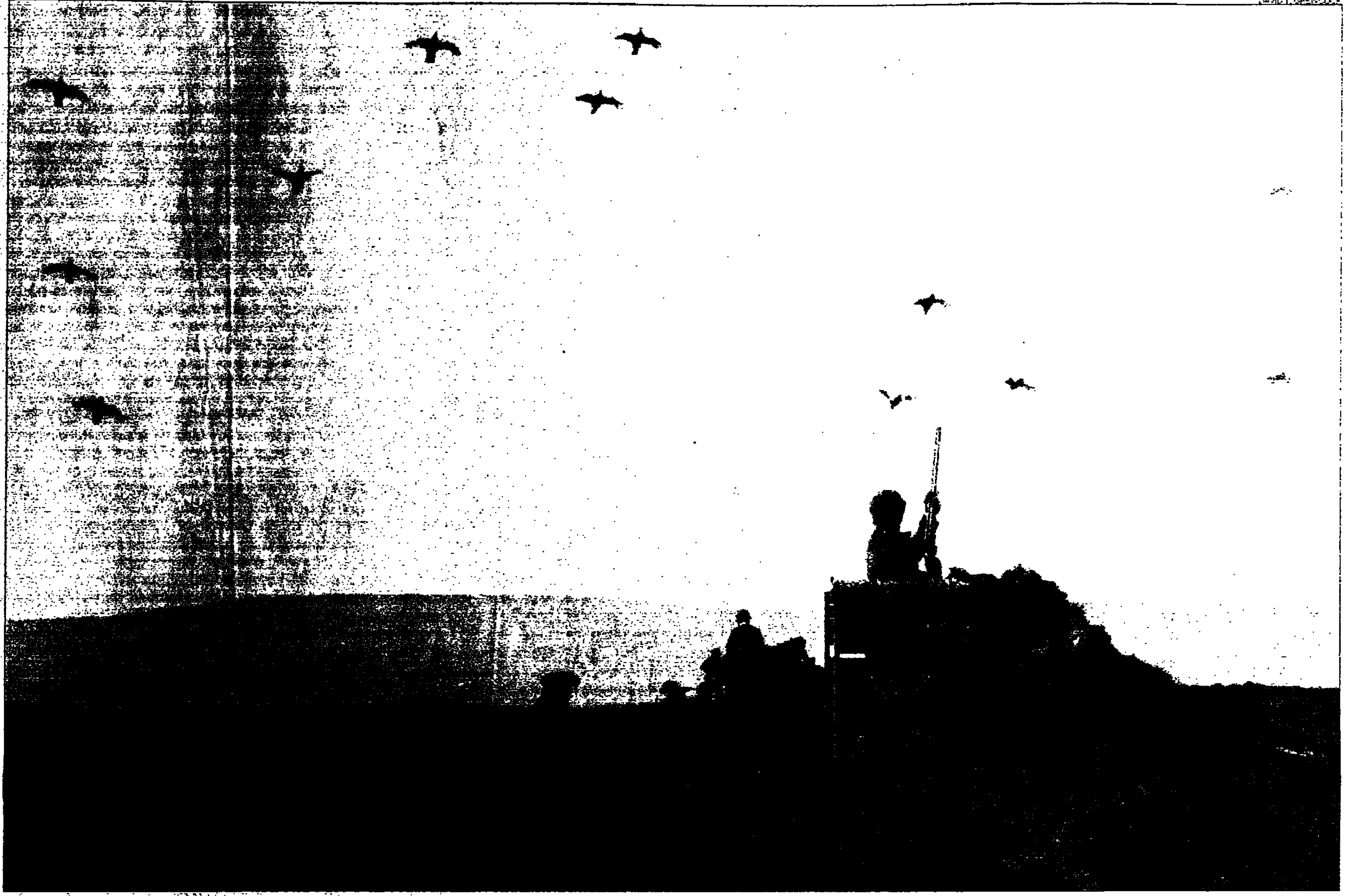
SATURDAY AUGUST 9 1997

For a blue-collar syndicate, shooting grouse is about love, not money. **Walter Ellis** celebrates the Glorious Twelfth

DAVID T. GREWCOCK



Not just for big shots

Lords, or at least tenants, of all they survey, the lads of the Dartmouth Syndicate stride purposefully over the moors, their dogs at their heels, eyes peeled for vermin. They have work to do: grit to lay down, traps to check, butts to repair. Steve Hirst, the gamekeeper, bends to examine the heather, rubbing the young shoots between finger and thumb, testing it for freshness, and assesses the much coarser third-year growth for its suitability as cover.

Overall, he is satisfied with progress. The season is shaping up nicely, without any of the heightened sense of urgency usually associated with the run-up to the Glorious Twelfth.

On grouse moors elsewhere, the gentry in their tweeds and the corporate guns in their Barbours will have itchy trigger fingers, desperate for the honour next Tuesday of bringing down the first bird. But here, in Cupwith Moor (pronounced Cup'ith), about 1,300ft above the mill villages of West Yorkshire, August 12 is just another day. September is when the Dartmouth shoot can hope for its harvest and, if they are lucky, the total bag will come to about 15 brace, 30 birds, each destined for the pot.

This is a blue-collar syndicate not afraid to get its hands dirty. Howard Copley, a somewhat stern-faced 25-year-old, is shoot captain, charged with coordinating the guns and organising the annual sport. During the week, he works as a butcher at a nearby supermarket where, he says — almost surprised by the question — there's not much call for grouse. Howard is a man with a mission, proud of what he has become. One quickly senses that it is here, on the open heath, that he feels most himself and most at home.

By Howard's side, Steve, looking like a shorter version of Bruce Grobbelaar minus the pony tail, is the man who taught him everything he knows. Steve works for a Huddersfield engineering firm, making valves, but races home every evening so that he can change into his gamekeeper's gear and head for the hills.

Like Howard, he stresses the conservation role of the shoot. He reels off the names of the moorland birds for which they provide a habitat: meadow pippets, skylarks, curlews, redshanks, golden plover. He is particularly proud of a pair of short-eared owls that has taken up residence, and of the arrival, so far unconfirmed, of a peregrine falcon. "They'll take a few of us chicks," he adds cheerfully in the familiar *Last of the Summer Wine* dialect of the region. "But that's nature, in't it? There's enough up here for all on us." Steve's son, Matthew, aged eight, is obviously delighted to be out on the moor with his dog. He and young Scott Lawton, whose dad, Martin, works as a sparky in the local power station, represent the next generation and already know every inch of the shoot.

The group secretary is Steve "Bronco" Holden, a genial, thickset man in his thirties, fond of a hamburger in the pub, who doubles as a plumber and general builder in nearby Slaithwaite. Born and raised over the county border in Cheshire, he came into shooting via fishing with his dad and now (whisper it) lists deerstalking among his more audacious pursuits.

Each man is keenly aware of the revolution that has taken place in the syndicate over the past 20 years. "I can remember when I were a kid, it were the doctor, the solicitor, the village professionals, who kept the shoot going," says Glen Dolan, a meat-trade worker. "The gamekeeper was one of the tenant farmers. It were a totally different carry-on to what it is now. The best thing about it now is the chat."

Not all traditions have been jettisoned. Strict decorum is maintained when the guns are out. Anyone who shoots across the line, endangering the lives of others, is ordered off the moor. What is missing is any sense of class superiority. Members concentrate on the business in hand, targeting wild birds that can weave towards them at speeds of more than 50mph. "Some get away and some don't," says Bronco, squinting down the length of his arm. "Depends if you've got your eye in. We don't go in for champagne or wine or anything fancy like that. We shoot till dinnertime [shortly after midday] and break for a sandwich before carrying on till three. Then we go to the pub for a pint and a bowl of stew."

Shoots are days out for the entire community. Friends and family, some still employed in the one functioning mill, turn up to assist as beaters and flankers, driving the grouse towards the guns. At the end of the day, everyone is given £5 and a meal for their trouble. Any spare grouse are handed over to local farmers for their indulgence over the year.

"Aren't the guns rather expensive?" I ask, thinking of the small fortunes some people pay for a Purdey or a Holland & Holland. "About £150 to £1,000 is as much as any of us ever paid," Howard says. "It isn't the gun as counts, it's the man behind it." Steve smiles.

Years ago, as Glen remembered, the present Dartmouth Syndicate would have been the sort of people who Lord Dartmouth's grandfather would have employed as beaters, driving *his* grouse towards the guns. The idea that they might have joined the shoot — as equals, by God — would have struck the earl as an offence against nature. Even today, grouse shooting is lodged in the public mind much as a gamekeeper is lodged within the gates of a stately home — as a traditional component of aristocratic privilege.

The president of the Game Conservancy Trust is Gerald Grosvenor, the Duke of Westminster, who numbers 22,500 acres of grouse moor in Lancashire among his assets. Chairing the same body is Earl Peel, who is also on the board of the Countryside Alliance and the

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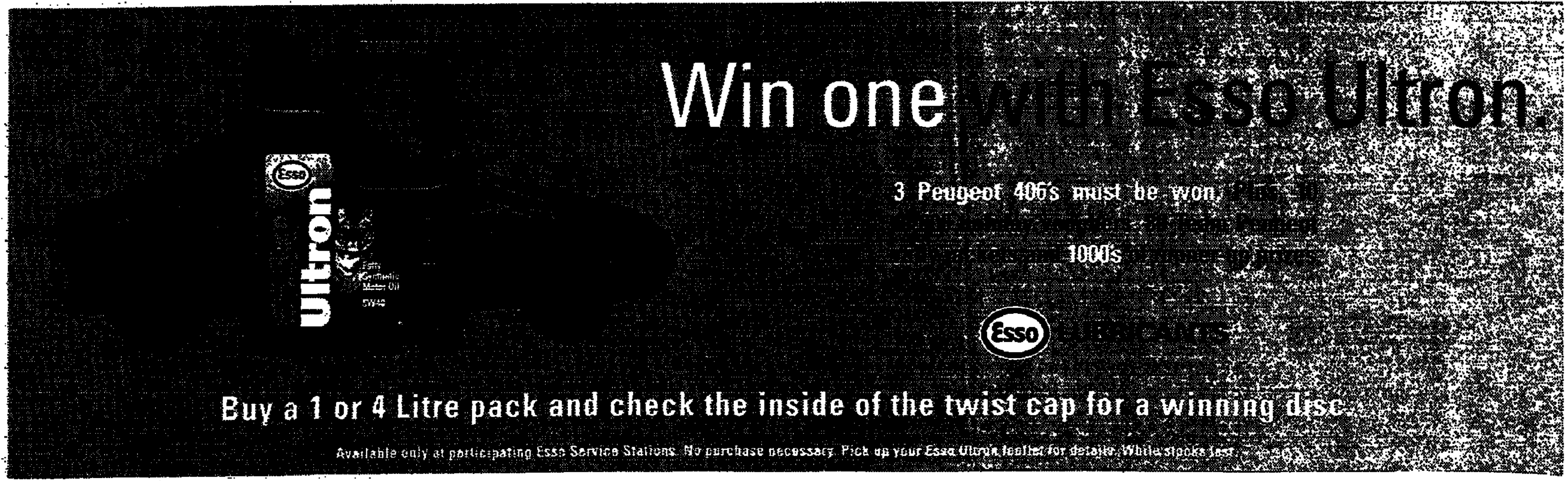
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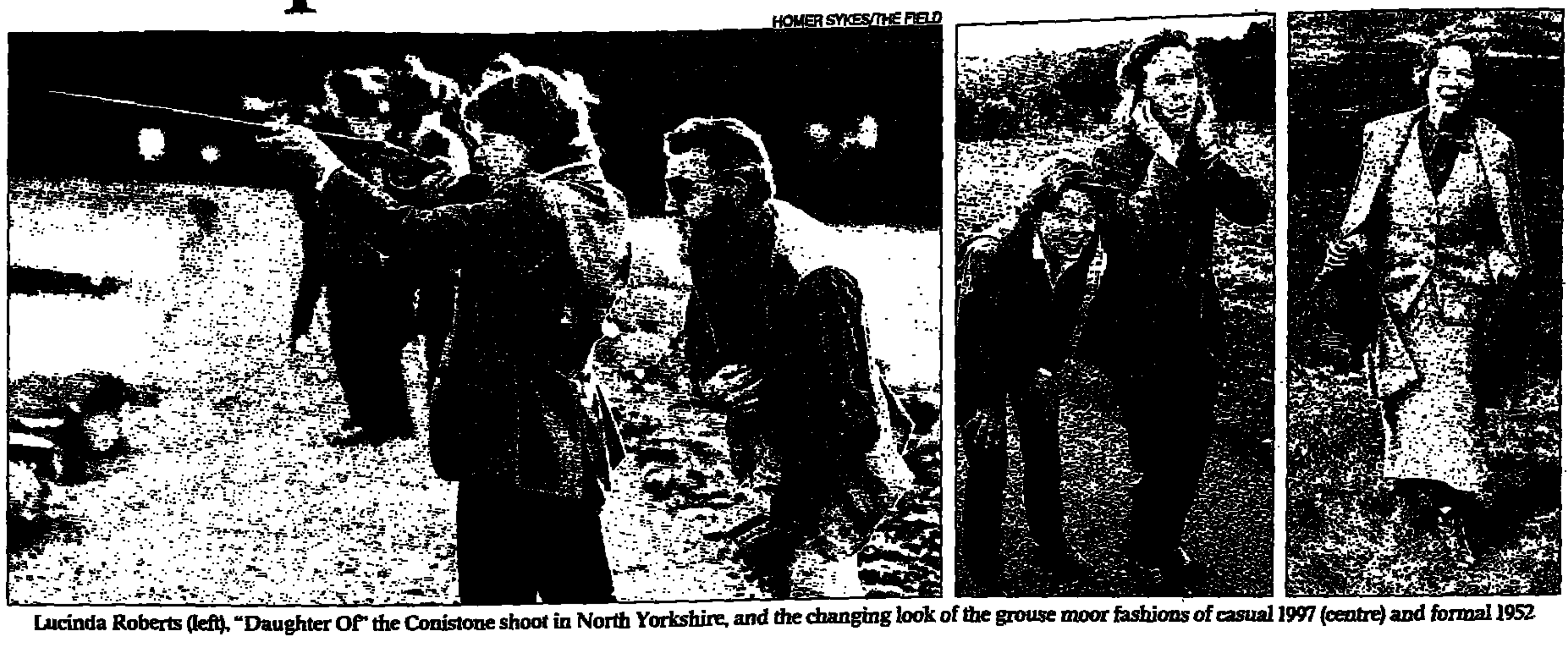
There's nothing like a young woman with a grouse moor behind her to set a man's heart a'flutter, **Joanna Pitman** discovers

The pull of the Grouse Babes

HOMER SYKES/THE FIELD



Lucinda Roberts (left), "Daughter Of" the Conistone shoot in North Yorkshire, and the changing look of the grouse moor fashions of casual 1997 (centre) and formal 1952

The Glorious Twelfth, *that* fixed high point of the British summer for the rich *and landed and those who mingle* among them, seems to be thriving despite the scent of anti-blood sports *militancy* in the air. But this year's Twelfth is going to be a little *bit less glorious than usual for the* nation's unattached guns. They are going to be one babe short.

With the marriage and retirement as self-styled "grouse babe" last month of *30-year-old Rosie* Nickerson, a crackshot whose inheritance includes a highly desirable grouse moor at Swaledale in North Yorkshire, the tally of most eligible "Daughters Of" — young women whose daddies own thousands of acres of windy, rainswept grouse moors — is reduced to just 29.

For most people, free access to a grouse moor would be ... well, nice for picnics, kite-flying, breezy walks, that sort of thing. But then, most of us were probably not brought up on the top of a moor, snuffling around as a toddler *among* gamekeepers and dead birds, or wielding a 28-bore shotgun at the age of eight or nine.

For those who were, the mention of grouse and moors brings a strange, faraway gleam to the eye. For young men who have had a go *at rabbits and pheasants, the call* of the grouse is by far the greatest challenge, and the prospect of "marrying a moor" can turn an otherwise sensible chap into a glutinous, fawning fool.

Daughters Of , who can give access to — *or even occasionally* ownership of — a moor, are highly sought after. The love lives of such young misses as Elizabeth Anne Mcpherson-Fletcher, Ilona Steuart *Fotheringham, Lady Iona Peel,* Lady Tamara Grosvenor, the Hon Rosie Sutherland and the Roberts sisters, whose daddies all own grouse moors, can be known to come to full flower quicker than for those whose daddies don't.

When Rosie was 17, for example, she was proposed to by a shooting man who fell into a state of thrilled obeisance as soon as he discovered that she came with moors attached. *She turned him down.*

Elizabeth Anne, 19 years old and cooking for a living, has a healthy attitude towards her heathery assets. "Most of my boyfriends know the shooting form: actually, most of them have known how to shoot pretty well. I've probably met all of *them through shooting parties or* through friends of my brothers, all of whom shoot. It's easier if they know the form, because I'm a keen shot and I would like my boyfriends to be able to enjoy it too.

"What happens is, you meet *someone and you start going out* with them, and then much later on when you mention it, their eyes light up, and they say, 'Oh, so you've got a grouse moor, have *you?*' Although it's quite nice that we have one, I don't tend to shout about it. *I don't say, 'Oh, Daddy's* got a grouse moor' or anything like that. I let them find out later and, when they do discover, they usually want to come and stay."

Elizabeth Anne's father owns 7,500 acres of grouse moor in Inverness-shire, and the four children have been brought *up to consider shooting grouse to* be as natural a pastime as swimming or *playing* ping-pong. "I started when I was nine," she says. "All my brothers were shooting and it was the most natural thing for me to do, too. I shot rabbits first, then pheasant, but it took me a while *to get my eye in. I* had a 4.10, a single-barrelled gun, to start on, and *I remember my* brothers teasing me all the time.

"There was one really good day when my brothers stood on either side of me and behind, assuming I *would miss all the birds.* The first one came over and I got it. Then two more came over and I got a right and a left. The boys were shouting that it was a fluke, but the *third came* over very high and somehow I got that one, too. So that was *when I proved myself.*

"I was 14 when I shot my first grouse and I've never missed a Glorious Twelfth since. I'm usually the only girl in the line so I get *lots of attention. When my brothers come up with their girlfriends,* most of whom can't shoot, I can go out with the boys and have them all to myself. That's great fun. With four brothers I've always counted myself as one of the boys."

Ever ready *to stomp miles* across moors in all weathers, equipped with the sort of megaphonic voice that can cut through force-ten gales, and a crackshot *herself, Elizabeth Anne is unlikely* to end up marrying a cardigan-clad stamp collector. For this is the time of year when the heathery, feathery plumage of Elizabeth Anne and her 28 fellow babes becomes most attractive and they find themselves *intensively fêted* and grovelled to.

The prospect of 'marrying a moor' can turn a sensible chap into a glutinous, fawning fool

Despite being gussied up in the all-weather kit, a distinctly unerotic costume of scratchy tweed *plus-twos, thick woollen stockings,* heavy leather-lined boots and layers of thick jumpers, they end up having to fight off the attentions of dapper male suitors with guns.

Ilona *Steuart* Fotheringham, 27, and a Daughter Of a Perthshire shooting family, rather enjoys the courting rituals and has had plenty of opportunities to get cosy *in the butts with the boys.* "I've been going out all my life on the family moor with the guns, but I used to help carry a game bag or just be a hanger-on. It never *occurred to me to shoot,* because girls just didn't do it, really. I used to meet plenty of nice guns in the butts, though, and we always had lots of time to get to know each *other, although* we weren't meant to talk too loudly because that disturbs the birds."

Devotees of the codes and conventions of moorland love affairs will have noticed the use of the phrase "girls just didn't do it, *really*". *Quite a lot of Daughters Of* don't actually shoot, either because (understandably) they can't stand the blood, they don't like the painful recoil of the gun on the *shoulder, it's too cold and wet,* or they have simply been discouraged from picking up a gun by an old-fashioned father.

Lucinda Roberts, a twenty-something Daughter Of the Conistone shoot in North Yorkshire, and described in society magazines as a "bubbly extrovert blonde who works in marketing in London", *told The Field: "It's a fairy-tale* idea, standing with a gorgeous Heathcliffe type in a butt while he's slaying grouse."

But don't try bandying grouse-babe niceties with *Lucinda or inquiring about* her gorgeous boyfriends this week: she's not playing. "Oh, I don't want to talk about that any more. You've caught me in Greece, *actually. I'm on holiday and* anyway I don't shoot grouse."

Beth Peel, who shoots every year on the Peel family moors north of Skipton in Yorkshire, says that *women ought to be encouraged to* have a go if they want to — and if they learn properly.

"Women are often better at it than men, because they have better hand-to-eye co-ordination. Women used to shoot as much as men during the Victorian period; it's only in the past 100 years or so that women guns have been frowned on by men. Perhaps it's the competition that worries them."

Nevertheless, Ilona's sister doesn't do it and Ilona *herself* was never encouraged, even though her father, a keen shot, declared *for years that whoever she married* would have to be able to shoot and reel.

Eventually, Ilona taught *herself* how to shoot. "I was about 18 and I just decided that I wanted to have a go myself. A boyfriend at the time who has a moor in Peebleshire helped me to get a gun and got me going. Now I shoot regularly at home. I didn't find it difficult at all at the beginning: I'm told I have a good eye. It was rather satisfying, really, going out with *all* the men and standing up for myself for the first time.

"I *mostly* shoot at home on Strathbraan and I really enjoy it, although I'm not particularly good. I need someone standing beside me, and, of course, being a girl, I don't get as much practice as the boys. I'm not brilliant, but I am keen. I've been *out shooting on the* Twelfth every year since 1990, and I get a little bit better each time. I'm quite keen to be as good as a *man*."

Ilona, tactically sharp in the use of *her moorland* assets, is due to shrug off the grouse-babe label next May *when she marries* Christopher Boyle. "We met at the Caledonian Ball at the Grosvenor House Hotel, and he is a keen shot. I hope he's not marrying me for *my moor. I don't think he is.*"

Robert Miller, the Hong Kong-based *duty-free tycoon* who bought Gunnerside — 35,000 acres of grouse moor in North Yorkshire — for close to £10 million in 1995, has seen his daughters married off *most satisfactorily, although, judging* by their spouses, the thrill of the duty-free assets may have exceeded the thrill of the moors. Pia has married Christopher Getty, *Marie-Chantal has married* Crown Prince Pavlos of Greece and Alexandra has married Prince Alexander von Fürstenberg.

None of the daughters shoots and it is doubtful that any of their husbands do either, but perhaps Miller should begin to insist they do. After all, the last thing any grousy father wants is to hand his precious heathery moors to non-shooting heirs, who might just sell *off all the woodland for timber* and level the moors for a a new international airport.

'There's a solidarity. Nothing will make us give up the life we love'

Continued from page 1

British Field Sports Society, *where his colleagues include* the Earl of Stockton, Lord "Beano" Mancroft and Lord Steel, a wine connoisseur and former Liberal Democrat leader. Viscount Whitelaw, like many old-school Conservatives, is a keen shot. *His* accidental wounding of Sir Joseph Nickerson during a shoot in 1984 has not dampened his enthusiasm.

The grouse: target of a sporting desire

Ronnie Capel Cure, an *Old* Etonian of Blake Hall, in Essex, is one of the fastest men on the circuit. Once, when shooting with the Duke of Buccleuch, *he snatched* a passing grouse out of the air, prompting the duke's keeper to remark the following year: "Will ye be shooting them or catching them this year, *sir?*"

For generations the upper classes *have thought of grouse* moors as their particular domain, reserved to them as of right. Yet shooting has become an almost prohibitively expensive business, so much so that even Earl Peel — "a big shooting *man,*" *say friends* — felt *obliged two years ago to sell* his 32,000 acres at Gunnerside, North Yorkshire, to Robert Miller, the retailing tycoon, for close to £10 million.

A day's sport on a high-profile moor, such as *Gunnerside, can command* more than £1,000, restricting *shooting in the main to* landowners, stockbrokers, supermarket tycoons and ageing rock stars.

Not so in Cupwith. Here, where the main title on display is the *Angling Times* in someone's back pocket, cash *disposed of is more* modest. A full gun membership of the Dartmouth Syndicate costs £400, entitling the holder to a likely six days' shooting a year — just two for grouse, the others for pheasant and duck.

The money raised is used to maintain the 1,500 acres that are the syndicate's sole responsibility under the terms of the lease. Grit has to be put down *at regular intervals so that the* grouse have the grounds in their *stomachs* necessary to break down the heather and billberries that comprise their sole adult diet. On occasions, medicated grit, treated to *guard against digestive infections,* has to be employed, but, at £72 a bag, it can be used only sparingly.

Heather is the prime concern. Without its conservation a grouse moor will degenerate *within a few years. Bracken* takes over and turns the landscape into a knee-deep jungle, alive with ticks. Game birds vanish, along with the curlews and redshanks, the foxes and hares. The alternative, *turning the moor* over to sheep, ensures only a bleak *expanse of bare peat on which* nothing grows.

"People imagine moorlands happen naturally," Steve Hirst says. "They don't realise they have to be managed."

He is scornful of a decision *by Bradford Metropolitan* Council to halt grouse shooting on Ilkley Moor, about 30 miles to the north. "They don't approve of us shooting grouse. What they *want* is conservation, they say. But you watch. The rot will start off with mountain-biking and rambling. Next, the kids'll move in with motorbikes, churning it up. Then the bracken and the *predators will start* to appear. Before you know it, there'll be nowt worth conserving."

Over the brow of the hill, about half a mile distant, *Cupwith descends gently to a* peat-rich stream, beyond which lie meadows (known locally as "intake") grazed by sheep and cattle. Part of the *moor adjacent to the syndicate* land was fenced off last year to provide further intake and is already changing its character. The shoot captain and his lads do not complain about this, but they are not happy *either. The moor to them is* part of their heritage, to be enjoyed by young and old, and the idea that the farming industry, which already over-produces, *should* always have the last word *puzzles them.*

PAUL SALMON

Four members of the Dartmouth Syndicate on Cupwith Moor — plenty of grit and not a tweed suit among them

The working class of Yorkshire's West Riding have had it hard for centuries. In the hollows of the hills, mill chimneys jut into the skies, flanked by serried rows of *stone halls in which the* worsted wealth of England was *made.* They can be picturesque but, at their peak in the late-Victorian age, these were *Blake's satanic mills, employing* thousands of workers for a pittance while creating fortunes for the mill owners.

It is ironic that the Labour Party, for which West Yorkshire voted overwhelmingly, should now pose the greatest threat to these *working men* in their expanded leisure time. Syndicate members are deeply concerned about the Government's support for an anti-hunting Bill and find themselves in alliance with the *Conservative-dominated* British Field Sports Society in defence of their interests.

It was the employer class, acquiring land and titles, who *first built up the grouse moors.* But, as the mills have closed and the big *houses* have one by one been turned into hotels and conference centres, working men (very few women) and landowners have discovered a common cause. Today, several workers' syndicates thrive in Yorkshire, with others in Lancashire and Wales, and all *must work in harmony with* their landlords. This being *Britain,* where money talks at least as loudly as class, there are, so far, no mixed-class shoots, but if there were a competiton for best shot there *is no certainty* the toffs and their *nouveau riche* friends would win.

HULTON DEUTSCH

The way it was: the "guns" of 1911 and their bag after a good day's shoot in Yorkshire

In the Rose and Crown, up the hill from Slaithwaite, the *lads sup their pints after* a Sunday morning on the moor. Over and over they *stress* the role of the community in what they do. A deal has been done with the National Trust, which *cuts their heather for them* and distributes the seeds across its own, more barren land. The local Colne Valley Beagles, hunting on foot, are *invited on to the moor from* time to time to keep down the foxes. And the two groups and the local farmers muck in to tackle heathland fires.

"It's not like it's us and them," says Mark Ward, a *security guard from nearby* Marsden. "It don't matter who you are or what you do; round 'ere everyone's the same."

"Aye," says Martin Lawton, an electrician, who joined the *syndicate only last year.* "The day we watched Princess Anne up at game fair in Castle Ashby were as close as we came t't ruling class."

What, though, of the alleged cruelty and the destruction of wild creatures? The question hangs in the air, refracted uneasily through several pints of Ward's Sheffield ale.

"I tell you," says Chris Foulds, who moved to the area from Bradford 15 years ago and now runs a local garage, "if you'd asked me in the city back then what I thought of hunting and shooting, I'd have said I were against it. Now it's the life I choose — only it seems in this country you can't enjoy anything without some pressure group or other starting up and trying to stop you."

They leave it to Melvyn Lindley, a Wakefield wine and spirits merchant, who at 59 is the oldest and most established of the group, to sum up their feelings about town versus country.

"We all went to the Hyde Park rally to tell this Government where to get off," says Melvyn, *warming immediately* to his theme. "And it were wonderful. There were a *real* sense of solidarity of intelligent, thinking people, all determined to keep field sports alive and well in this country.

"Nothing will make us give up the life we love. If we have to chain ourselves to the railings outside Downing Street, that's exactly what we'll do."

FACT FILE

BRITAIN has 459 grouse moors. The season begins on August 12 and ends on December 10 (November 30 in Northern Ireland).

The outlook this year is good. In England, more than 70 per cent of moors show an increase in grouse density compared with last year. On some Scottish moors *there is a small decrease,* but on others north of the Border there are substantially more grouse than last year. In Wales, *small increases* are apparent, but grouse numbers are depressed, because of low stocks and chick survival.

To shoot driven grouse will cost up to £70 a brace, and up to *£30* a brace for walked grouse. Last year, the direct expenditure generated by driven grouse shooting was £14.7 *million.*

The average annual bag in Scotland is 250,000; 450,000 for Britain as a whole, although the number of grouse shot on managed moors has fallen by an average of 40 per cent over the past 40 years.

Vintage years for red grouse were 1912, 1934, 1963, 1965 and 1974, although there were regional variations. The worst year was 1917, after the parasitic gutworm *Trichostrongylus tenuis,* poor weather and disease took their toll.

— PORTIA COLWELL

● *Information supplied by the Game Conservancy Trust.*

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Putting on the glitz

Designers are setting the high street alight with the latest sequinned and shiny fabrics.

Heath Brown joins the glitter band

Adding a bit of sparkle to your life could not be easier this autumn: the clothes rails of designer boutiques and high-street chains are positively glowing with Lurex-shot fabrics, iridescent suiting and glittering, shimmering, sequinned delights.

And it's not just eveningwear that gets to shine. Cosy cardigans are enlivened with metallic threads, simple T-shirts are coated and burnished to reflect and dazzle, and sequin and diamanté details give a touch of glamour to basic skirt shapes. There is also a touch of the unexpected: wet-look materials in evening gowns, Lurex threadwoven into new-age disco outfits and more subtle shot stripes added to knits. Everything, it seems, has that added twinkle in an attempt to brighten up the onset of autumn.

"The exciting thing is that Lurex has been incorporated into the everyday wardrobe," says Gail Casimir, the chief designer at Etam. "The Nineties is about adding a bit of sparkle to life."

Technological innovations have made the look more possible for day and night, as the threads have become more comfortable to wear. Gone are the days of scratchy, heavy dust-printed fabrics and gold threads that were so popular with Seventies glam rockers and disco divas; today's new softened sparkly synthetics are now mixed with natural fibres for a more skin-friendly feel.

"You don't have to suffer to shine out in fashion today," says Lucille Lewin of Whistles, which stocks a wide selection of metallic looks, subtle sequinned tops and Lurex-shot knits. "Shiny fabrics are now *more comfortable, easier to* wear and can therefore be worn all day long." The look, she explains, is an extension of the shiny nylon fashions so popular last year, but with a touch of glamour, emphasising subtle sheens over over-glam glitz.

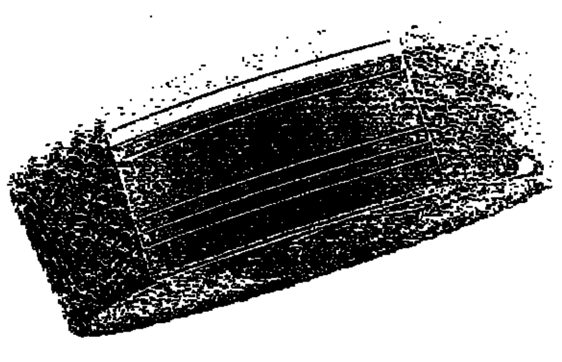
Because of its sublety, she says, the look is one that will last well into autumn, to spice up a plain outfit or add glamour for evening. Yarns that were once used for evening wear — especially at Christmas — are now being mixed and matched for daytime use. They are also an ideal foil to a dull suit, hinting at glamour, but not proving too glitzy. When mixed with this season's slushy colours, its effect is even more subtle: a series of Lurex stripes within a dark olive or brown knit is hardly disco fever, but will lift an otherwise dull ensemble.

The trick, as all the buyers point out, is to go for subtlety: don't overdo it and you will truly shine.

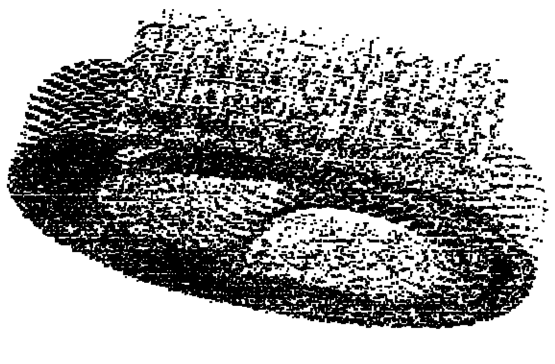
ABOVE: Gold fine-rib cardigan, from a selection, £35, Warehouse (0171-278 3491). Long charcoal metallic satin dress, £450, Plein Sud, Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1, and selected branches nationwide (0171-487 4484). Shoes, £69, Red or Dead, branches nationwide (0114-273 7827)

THREE OF A KIND

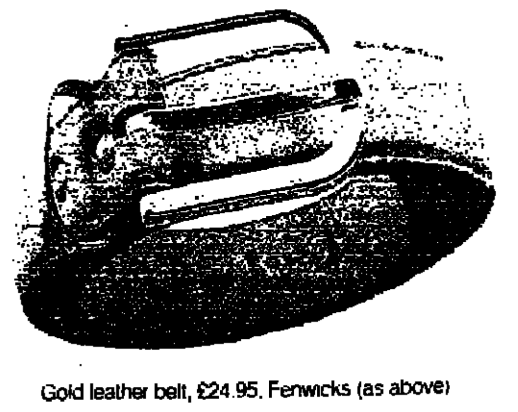
What better way to emphasise hipsters and bronzed midriffs than the glitter of a golden belt? Here are three of the best. H.B.



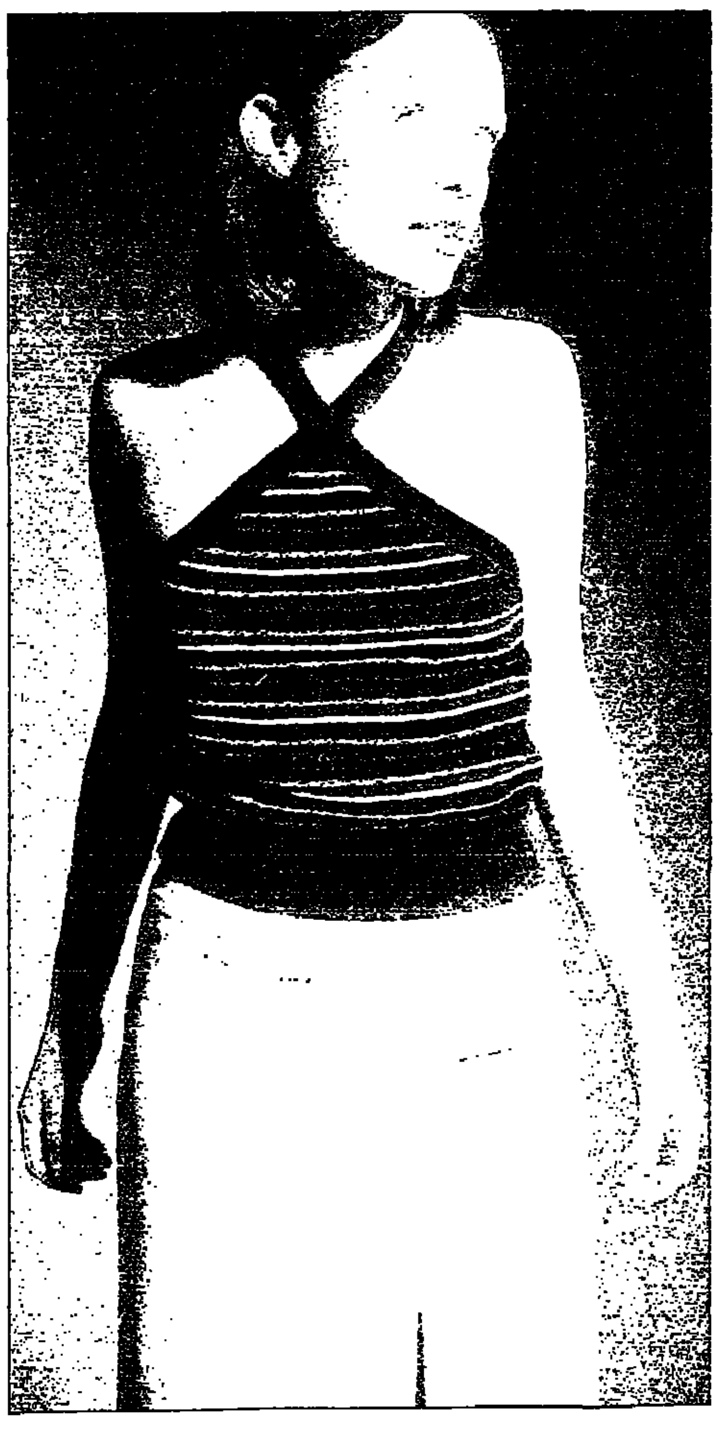
Gold scale belt, £24.95, Otto Glanz, Fenwicks (0181-365 1711)



Fine gold mesh belt, £79.95, Harrods (0171-730 1234)



Gold leather belt, £24.95, Fenwicks (as above)



ABOVE: Purple stretch turtleneck top, £22; deep purple metallic trousers, £50, Warehouse, as before

Main photographs by **Richard Burns**. Belt photographs by **Martin Bedall**. Hair and make-up by **Sarah Gottschalk** using Glauca Rossi Products (mail order 0171-[illegible]). Styling by **Amandip Uppal**

LEFT: Black and silver halterneck top, £29.99; pale grey PVC skirt, £49.99, Kookai, 123 Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 4411)
RIGHT: Gold fine knit vest, £16, Etam, branches nationwide (0171-494 7732). Red cracked trousers, £115, Whistles, as before. Black patent ankle boots, £275, Gina, 189 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 [illegible])

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THE BLUE CROSS

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

Q Some of the stems of my climbing rose have spherical, fuzzy galls [abnormal growths] on them, about the size of a 10p piece and a foot apart. What should I do about this? — D.K. Gallon, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

A Galls are the result of chemical damage to the plant tissues caused by insects laying their eggs. They have no serious effect on the plant and can be ignored or pruned away.

Q The bark of my tall variegated Norway maple has been seriously damaged by chaffing against its support stake. In one place it has been loosened virtually all around the trunk. What can I do? — C. Booth, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

A If the bark is split 90 per cent or more of the way around the trunk, the tree is likely to die. But loose, still-attached bark can sometimes be persuaded to rebind by wrapping it immediately with firm, but not tight, hessian. Bind it and wait to see how it fares over the summer. (This can be tried with frost-split bark in spring.) If the top dies, either cut it off in the autumn or replace the tree. The trunk would probably sprout again and you might even retrain a new leader from the new low shoots. You could also allow a lower crown to develop from branches rising at 4ft.

Q We have a lovely Spanish broom but it is now too large for our small garden. How do we prune it, and can we take cuttings? We leave its seed pods to fall on the ground but never find any seedlings. — M.B. Viney, Axbridge, Somerset.

A The Spanish broom, *Genista hispanica*, makes a prickly, yellow-flowered hummock more like a gorse bush than our native broom. Like most pea-family shrubs, it does not like being cut back hard into old wood. On hot, dry and stony soils it will last many years, but on rich, moist soils it grows fast and soft, and its life is shorter. To prune it, nip out the leading shoots several times each season in the first few years to make it dense. Later, if needs be, clip it with shears (about 3in-4in) after flowering, but otherwise leave it alone in old age. I have not known seedlings appear spontaneously in Britain, but you could try sowing some in a pot now and again next spring. Cuttings are taken 3in long on a heel in August, using a very sandy compost, to root over the winter.

Q Rust is killing my *Campanula persicifolia* plants, which I use for cut flowers. Can this be cured? — Miss W. Webster, Hornchurch, Essex.

A Campanulas should respond to any of the usual fungicides for rusts. Failing that, destroy the affected plants and plant new ones well away from the previous plants.

- *Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

Jane Owen on the joys of a Japanese garden and the schoolboys who created their own

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

THE BUILDING BLOCKS of a classic Japanese-style garden (above) include carefully chosen stone, moss, water, and many different varieties of pine, which are often contorted into unusual shapes. Where water is not available, the Japanese sometimes use patterns of stone and trimmed grasses to create the impression of a stream or flowing water. Unlike the traditional British garden, flowers do not play an important role in most Japanese gardens — form and texture are used to paint a picture. One of the great advantages of this style of gardening, and one of the reasons for its growing popularity, is that it can successfully fill even the smallest courtyard or urban garden, transforming it into a relaxing space. The students of Marlborough Comprehensive (below) have discovered this for themselves during their project to turn a covered courtyard in their school into an oasis of calm.

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Lesson in the art of Oriental tranquillity

PAUL FIEVEZ

The Japanese garden team at work on their raised bed

Friday night is not the time you might expect young boys to be watching gardening programmes on television, but for one group of 14 and 15-year-olds it is the highlight of the week. So interested are they in the subject that they have built a Japanese-style garden at their school.

They chose the project as an extra-mural activity which goes down on their record of achievement. And, unlike their colleagues whose projects such as sailing and skating take one afternoon a week, Geoff Poulton, Richard Shakespeare, Robert Blair, Chris Kelly and Zac Saifur-Rahman have to work at their project every day, except weekends, otherwise it will die; watering is a daily chore.

The idea for a Japanese garden came from Megan Chappell, the pottery teacher at the 800-pupil Marlborough Comprehensive School, close to Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire. Planning and fund-raising began a year ago and work started in January, after the best elements of a school garden-design competition were amalgamated to create a wheelchair-friendly raised-bed garden.

The tranquil Japanese-style garden has transformed what was a rubbish-filled covered courtyard at the centre of the 1939 school building. The large central raised-island bed slopes gently, with a trickling water feature at one end. The planting is dominated by grasses and the green-and-white colour scheme created by dwarf coniferous plants is broken only by the earthy glazes of the pottery ornaments made by the students. Eventually, the tiny-leafed evergreen ground cover Mind Your Own Business will create a moss-like effect of an authentic Japanese garden floor.

The construction is simple and effective: upright wooden poles about a metre high supporting a roof covering.

Ted Adanams, the now retired rural studies master, oversaw the first phase of the project and donated a Chinese elm from his allotment.

The final phase, building a second raised bed at one end of the courtyard, is being managed by Zac and Geoff. Zac is hardly a novice to gardening: he earns pocket money by looking after 15 gardens for local people, and also runs five allotments, mostly down to soft fruit, which he intends to sell locally.

Zac, with a little help, came up with a full planting plan with most of the Latin and common names: Japanese white pine, *Pinus parviflora*; the dwarf *Picea glauca* var. *albertiana* 'Conica'; the blue-green conical *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Ellwoodii'; the golden *C. pisifera* 'Filifera Aurea'; the prostate pale grey-blue *Juniperus squamata* 'Blue Star'; and the creeping *J. x pfitzeriana* 'Gold Coast'. Around the margin of the water feature there is a planting of the striped Japanese rush *Acorus gramineus* 'Ogon', the variegated reed grass *Calamagrotis* x *acutiflora* 'Overdam' and a range of ornamental grasses.

Every aspect of the garden was thought through, including the sounds from it. The pleasing splash of water took three hours to get right, with the students man-handling a vast piece of treated slate into just the right angle to perfect it. They felt slate looked out of place in the rest of the garden, where mellow Cotswold stone dominates, so they mixed up cement with compost and covered the slate to give a colour match and encourage a patina of algae and moss.

The students installed a 230V/15W pump, with the help of Mr Adanams, to circulate 955 litres of water. The calculations for the size of pump needed in relation to the water flow desired were carried out by the boys.

"We hid the pipes under rocks," says Geoff, as he points to part of the dry-water feature. "We have a water-resistant circuit breaker and, although the electrics and the water were installed professionally, we helped to check it before we turned on the system."

"We put the river of stones at the centre to give the effect of a stream which has dried up," Zac says.

A chance letter from a Japanese baker wanting to spend time in this country gave the head teacher, Ed McConnell, the opportunity to add some genuine Japanese input. "I invited her to spend three months with us. She spoke no English but helped us with some of the signing in the garden." The visitor, T. Junko Ikaedo, also helped to write for sponsorship from Japanese companies. Kubota and Nissan came up with £700. More funds have come from cake sales, and British charities have added £2,500.

Budget restrictions meant that the students had to find ways to get most of the materials free. Luckily, a new classroom complex is being built and the boys persuaded the builders to let them take topsoil and sand, cement and ballast to make up their own cement. The builders also gave two large pieces of geotextile to line the beds and contain the soil and moisture.

For the second phase of the garden, Geoff made a rough design for the measurements, so that they knew how much more wood and other materials to order, but left the planting details for a later, more detailed plan.

The garden is completely wheelchair-friendly. Richard has tested his wheelchair around the entire area and found access easy. So easy, in fact, that he discovered he could paint all the walls himself, and could take part in planting the raised beds.

Temporary setbacks, such as Zac also working from a wheelchair after having an operation on one of his legs, do not appear to have inhibited the team in any way. "These projects should not be done quickly," Mr McConnell says. "It is the process that is important rather than the end result."

Ms Chapell, who inspired the boys to start, is now helping with the final touches and says: "We plan to get some big bamboos to cover the metal pillars around the edge of the garden and plant wisteria and jasmine, although the bamboo is expensive and money is a problem."

With her help, some of the students have also made the Japanese-style pottery lamps that dot the garden, and there are plans to make some vast slab pots and more pottery koi carp for the pond — there is a suspicion that the school cats would be the only beneficiaries from the real McKoi.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Ensure border phlox have plenty of water to keep them blooming into September: drought invites mildew.
- Lift shallots and autumn-sown onions when foliage fades. Earth-up potatoes and celery and keep watered.
- Take cuttings of pinks, pansies and violas, using 2in-3in shoots in a very sandy compost.
- Move outdoor pots of plants into the shade during brief periods of holiday. Better still, stand the pots in "saucers" filled with water.

Perfume without the pest

Breeding has rid classic English roses of the need for all that pruning and spraying, **Stephen Anderton** writes

Poor old roses; they can get such a bad press. Say roses to an ecologically-minded gardener and he or she immediately thinks of pests and diseases and spraying. Say roses to a novice gardener and up come intimidating rules about pruning and dead-heading. But say roses to a rose lover and the reaction is ecstasy. So what is the reality?

A rose lover will talk about the beauty of the flower, the shape of the bud, the way the petals are arranged and the perfume. Press him and he will talk about matters slightly less vital, such as the length of flowering season, how the flowers resist rain and how the plant resists mildew and blackspot. In other words, highly bred roses are "florists' flowers", like dahlias and auriculas, bred for the detailed quality of bloom.

David Austin, a rose breeder in Wolverhampton who has created a new race of "English roses", admits that roses are florists' flowers, but defends them as such and does not want to see the tradition of rose breeding lost in a frenzy of eco-correctness.

Mr Austin has done much to restore the position of the rose in gardens in recent years. He has worked to pull the best qualities of the old roses — character and quality of bloom and perfume — back into mainline breeding and to create new healthy, repeat-flowering and shapely bushes.

When I visited his nursery in June it was only hours after a torrential rainstorm, yet his roses looking astonishingly good. His nursery contains nothing but roses, if you discount the dwarf box and yew hedges which front the beds and the background structure of tall hedges, pergolas and sculpture.

"Roses need order. They provide the chaos," he says. Certainly, within a strong framework of hedges and pergolas they can provide a constant display of magical moments. Everywhere you go you want to bend and sniff the flowers, or rub the covering on the buds of moss roses to smell the resin fragrance. You find yourself smiling and taking in deep, satisfying breaths.

So many of the old roses were exquisite in bloom but only flowered once. Modern breeding has changed that and made repeat flowering the norm. Mr Austin claims that his rose garden is in bloom from May until the frosts. Well he would, he's a rose lover.

In reality, there are still peaks of shocking profusion and less spectacular troughs, where plants regroup for another flush. But the show can and does go on and on.

The best varieties will bubble on with flower all season. But then, Mr Austin knows what it takes to keep them performing at full speed on his sandy loam: lots of food and plenty of water.

He mulches heavily with manure, as well as applying the semi-organic fertiliser Vitax Q4 in February and again in June, just before the first flush of flower. This second dose is not to improve the first flush but to get the plants in good heart for making successive flowers.

He has installed irrigation in his garden because the flowers of "dry" roses last a shorter time and the plant struggles to make that succession of new growth and new flowers. Ecologists might say that the need for water is another nail in the coffin of roses, but we should remember these are exhibition flowers grown *en masse* and in ideal conditions. In a domestic garden, an occasional bowl of washing-up water on the rose bushes will do just as much good.

Mulching is important for keeping the moisture in the soil as well as covering up fungal spores to stop them splashing up on to foliage in rain. In such a monoculture, Mr Austin sprays his roses regularly against fungal diseases. But only rarely does he use insecticide, and then by spot treatment. He hates combined fungal and insecticide sprays, such as Roseclear, now withdrawn from sale, because they encourage many gardeners to apply both indiscriminately.

At Warwick Castle, a late Victorian rose garden has been recreated by Sid Elsgood, the gardener and wildlife warden. He uses insecticides only after fledgeling birds have flown and favours the relatively gentle Picket. He hardly ever sprays with fungicide (Nimrod T), and it shows. There is, of course, a little blackspot here and there, but the overall impression is excellent.

His garden is based on an 1886 plan by Robert Marnock and was built on former tennis courts in 1986, shortly after the Tussauds Group took over the castle. The garden sits in a sunny clearing within woodland and the design is loosely cruciform, with a complex arrangement of turf and gravel paths.

Despite the symmetry, the overall feel is light, airy and flowing. And there are roses everywhere — in massed beds, in beds of standards over shorter bushes, swagged to the crested iron perimeter supports, and smothering seats and arbours.

The surrounding trees lend height to the scene and the great 15ft arches of ramblers, such as 'The Garland', anchor and lift the design and pour out a heady surfeit of perfume.

Mr Elsgood feels no need for a leavening of herbaceous plants with his roses. I could never live with such a restricted palette of plants. But to visit, to learn from, to breathe in on a sunny day, there is nothing like a rose garden.

● *Gardens which have a good show of roses include: David Austin Roses, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire (01746 780660); Castle Howard, York (01653 648333); Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire (01242 604357); Mottisfont Abbey, near Romsey, Hampshire (01794 341220); Haddon Hall, Bakewell, Derbyshire (01629 812855); Warwick Castle, Warwick (01926 495421); Rosemoor Garden, Great Torrington, Devon (01805 624067).*

GROWING TIPS

- Give your plants humus — and more humus. Use plenty of well-rotted manure or compost at planting time, and as an annual mulch. Roses enjoy heavy soils but with the addition of plenty of manure they can be made to thrive, even on light and sandy earth.
- Plants growing strongly suffer fewer pests and diseases, so feed well and water regularly.
- Roses often thrive in one garden and not in another, for various reasons. If a rose refuses to grow well and harbours disease, replace it.
- Don't be put off by "rules" about pruning. It is mostly common sense and a look at a gardening book to get the basics will suffice.

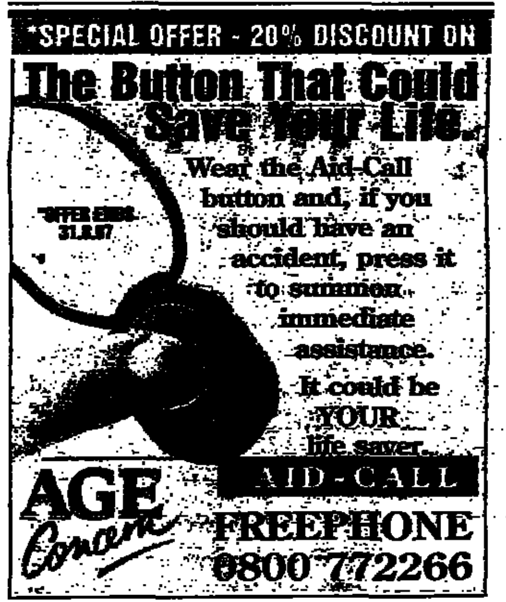
NEWSTEAM

Gardener Sid Elsgood has recreated a late Victorian rose garden in a sunny clearing within woodland at Warwick Castle

FOR EXPERTS

- Of the old-fashioned roses, the *gallica* and *alba* types are least prone to disease. *Rugosa* roses also stay clean. But be wary of the 'Bourbon', 'Hybrid Perpetual' and old Tea roses, which were *not* as carefully bred and were soon replaced by Hybrid Teas.
- 'Flower Carpet White', a new low-growing, spray-flowered white, offers great disease-resistance from its *Rosa wichuriana* ancestry, and has outrageously glossy foliage. Grows to 2ft.
- 'Mistress Quickly', an "English rose" with soft pink flowers, has only a little scent. It grows upright to 3ft.

HOMES & GARDENS



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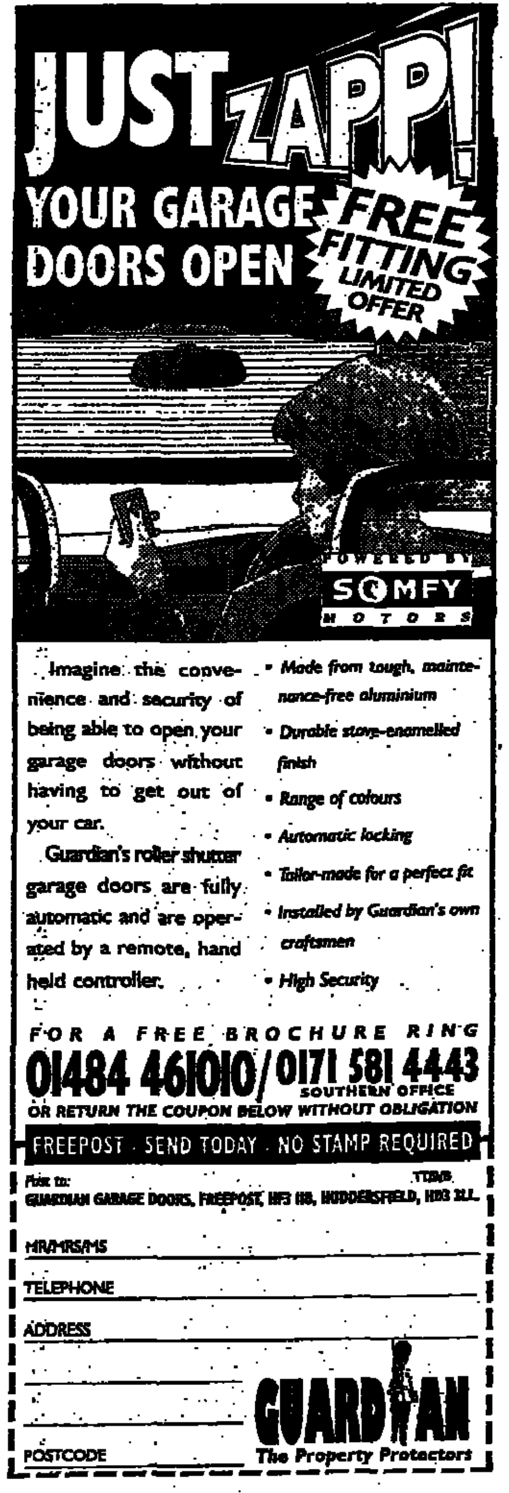

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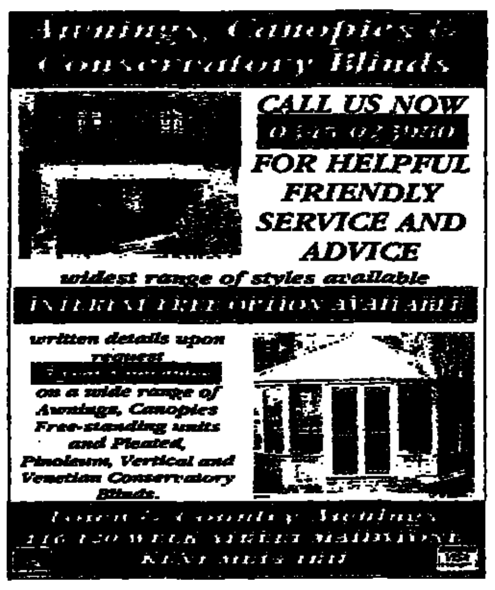

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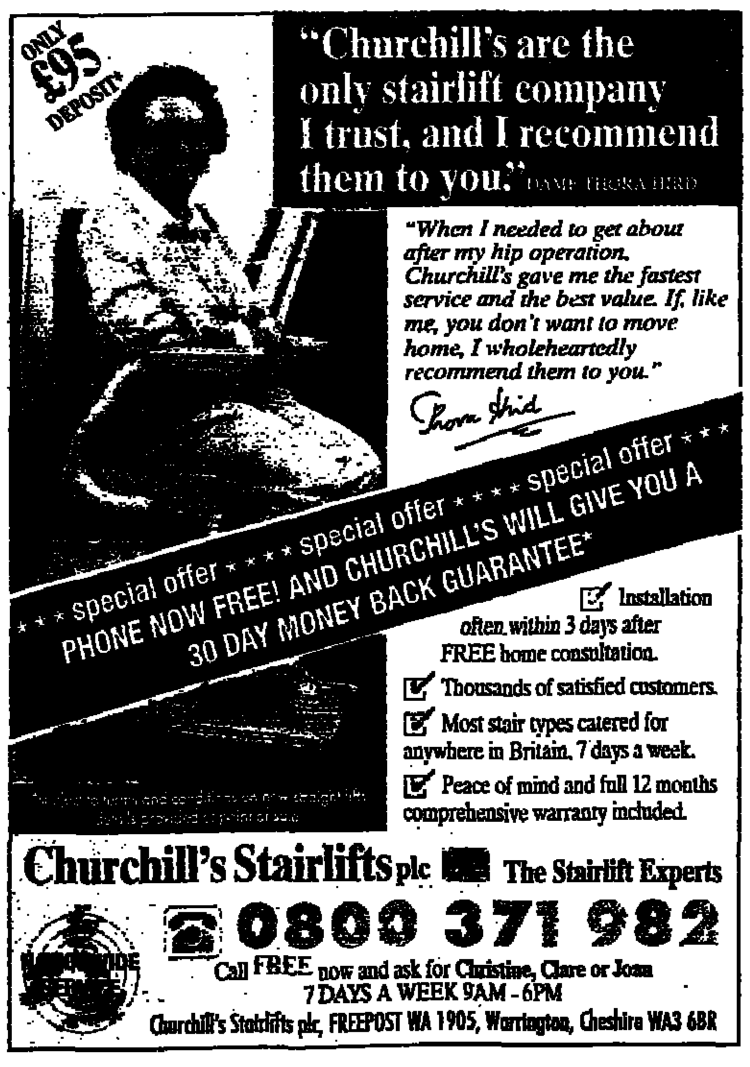

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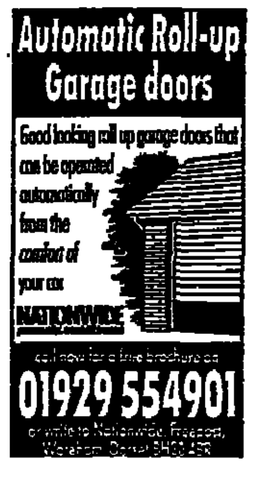

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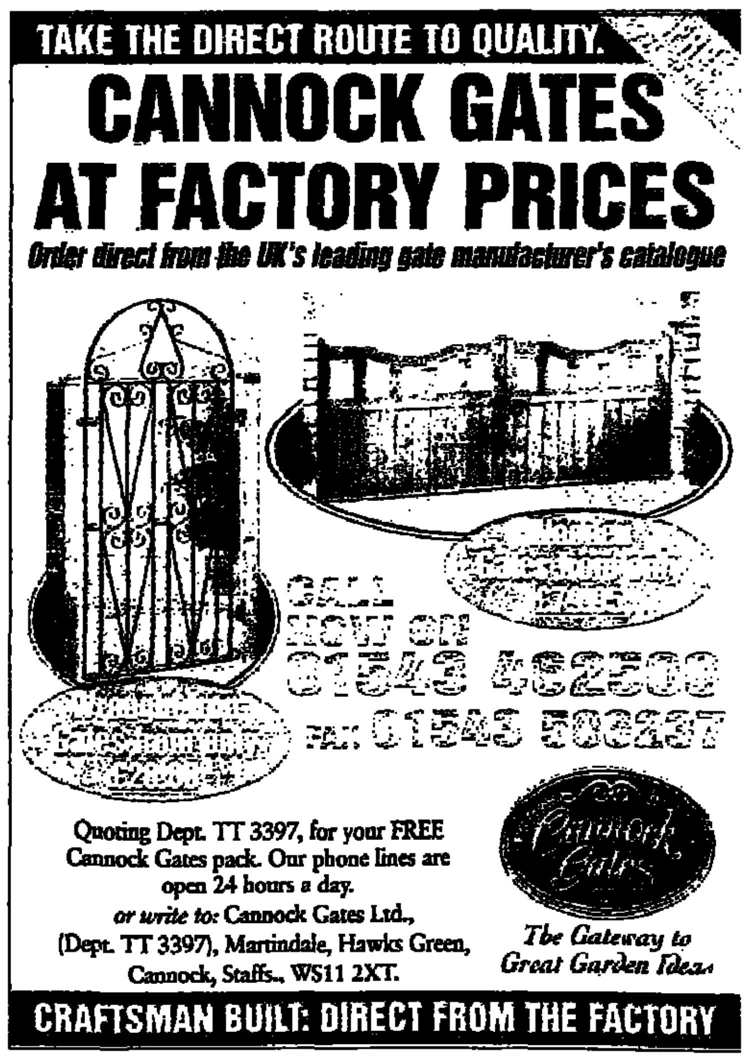

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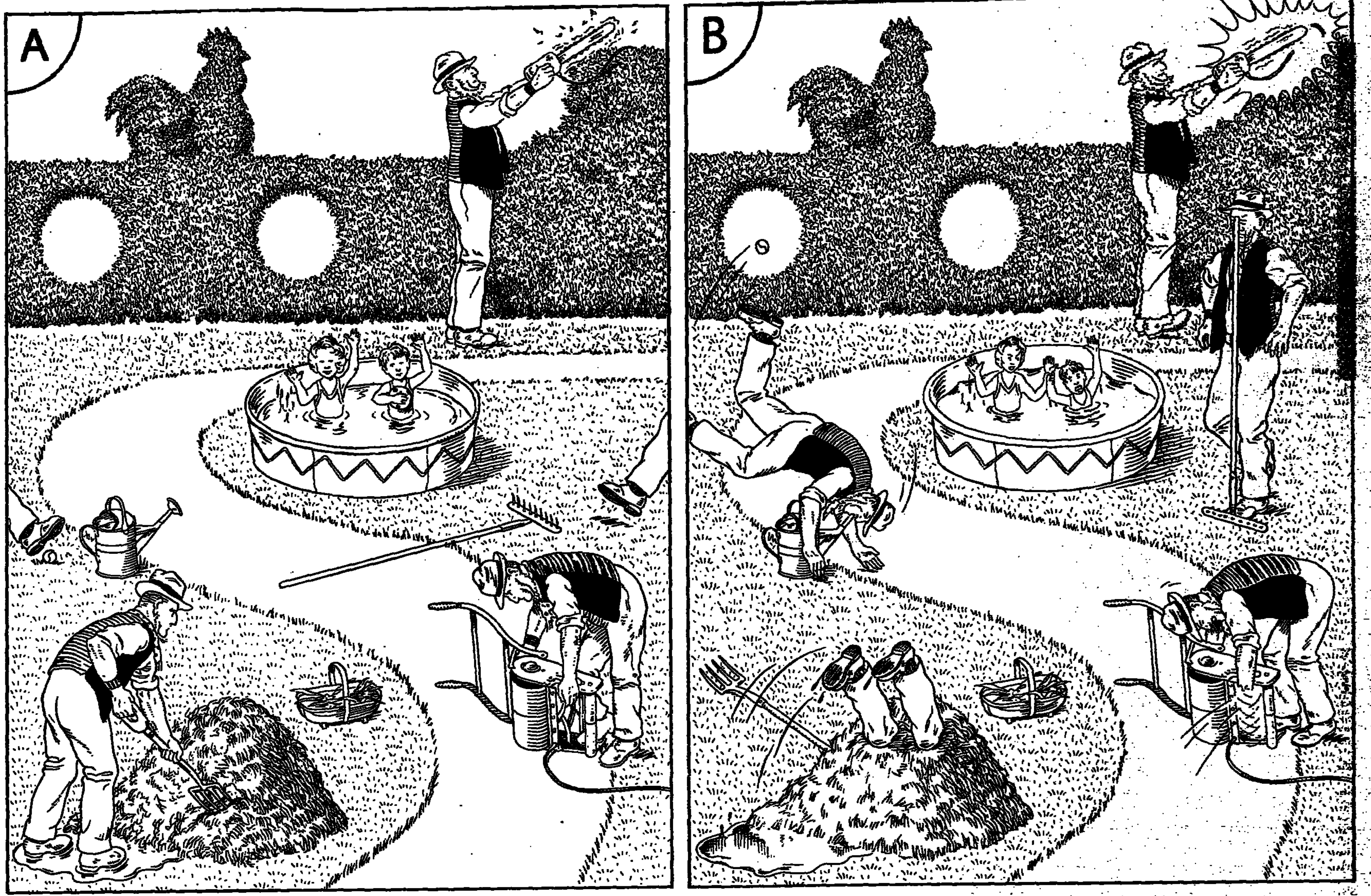

Gardens are full of hidden dangers, but by following a few simple rules you can make them safer, says **Jane Owen**

Take care – it's a jungle out there

A designer friend who knows the value of urine as a compost accelerator was once stung on a delicate part of his anatomy. Gardening, like life, can be a dangerous pastime. His injury, which involved a trip to hospital, would have come under the heading "compost heap" in the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents' list of "selected garden articles causing injury".

Tantalisingly, the society does not stipulate what other injuries can be inflicted by a compost heap. In 1992, "compost heap" accounted for 0.5 per cent of 51,000 serious garden accidents. At the top of the chart came "wood, sticks and branches", which accounted for 15.2 per cent. Latest estimates suggests there are 350,000 garden accidents every year, 25,000 which involve tools, mostly the lawn mower.

One of the most baffling statistics is that the watering can is responsible for about 400 accidents a year. How? Accidental drowning while making detailed study of the water level? Becoming impaled on the spout? "Watering can" comes above the "garden roller" and the "rotary cultivator" in the danger list.

Cricked backs are such a regular problem for gardeners that the National Back Pain Association has a pamphlet on the subject. And the association despairs about many standard British gardening hand tools, such as spades and forks, which cause unnecessary stress to the back because their handles are too short.

Australian-style, long-handled tools cause less back stress — the lighter the better. Neill Tools makes a range called Backsaver, which includes spades, forks, rakes, hoes and an edging knife. All the tools are lighter than most conventional equivalents and are designed to be used sitting down or standing straight.

I am reasonably fit and strong and use traditional British tools but I only ever use a border spade which carries less soil than standard ones, so putting less strain on my back. Mowing places great strain on the back, especially hover mowers when they are swept from side to side. Hands and feet are the most vulnerable parts of the anatomy after the back, and stout shoes and gloves are advised (although gloves make it impossible to trace and delve out the long roots of bindweed or mint when you are hand weeding).

Power tools such as shredders, hedge trimmers and strimmers should be used with protective goggles, and chainsaws should be used only by people who have been trained. Most hand tools are potentially dangerous because they have sharp points or blades. Accidents to small children often happen when they are exploring untidy tool sheds. Lock tools away and store them tidily.

When buying children's play equipment, look for British Standard BS5665 and ensure that slides and swings are securely installed. Children need to be protected from water — half of all those who drown are toddlers.

Electrocution is a common problem and a current breaker is essential with all electrical equipment. This small plug-like device, available from most DIY and garden stores, will cut off the power if there is a problem. Look for the BEAB or BSI kitemark before buying tools, follow the instructions and never use in wet weather.

If man-made dangers in the garden don't get you, nature might. Tetanus, an organism which lurks in the soil, can cause death if it enters a cut, although it is probably one thing the under-fifties don't have to worry about. Most will have been vaccinated at school.

Gardeners over 50 who have not been in the armed forces (where they would have been vaccinated) and are concerned about the risk of tetanus should contact their GP.

FACT FILE

- **Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (0121-248 2000).**
- **National Back Pain Association (0181-977 5474). For a self-help kit about gardening and back pain, send £2.50 to *the National Back Pain Association* 16, Elm Tree Road, Teddington TW11 8ST.**
- **Information on stockists of Backsaver Neill tools: 0114-281 4242.**
- ***Poisonous Plants in Britain and Ireland* CD-Rom (see below), £89, from HMSO, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT. *Credit card orders*: 0171-873 9090.**
- **Information on the fungi CD-Rom (see below) from Dr Deborough Shah-Smith, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, Surrey TW9 3AE (fax 0181-332 5768).**

IDEAL FOR FLOWER BEDS, BORDERS AND PATIO TUBS

Dutch Crocus at half normal price

THESE *large-flowered Dutch* crocus bulbs will become a profusion of colour as the first hint of warm weather touches next spring. Once planted they can be left undisturbed and will flower year after year, gaining more flowers as they multiply.

Crocuses make superb displays, in flower beds, borders, window boxes or patio tubs, and are at their best when planted closely together in clumps.

We are offering readers a choice of five colours: light blue, purple, pure white, bright yellow or blue and white striped — all of which will be packed separately and labelled *so you can plan your* colour scene or make your own mixtures as required. Each pack has 40 bulbs and cost between £4.99 and £5.50. Alternatively, treat yourself to one pack of each variety for only £12.99 inc. p&p — giving you 200 bulbs at half the normal price.

The Times Dutch Crocus Offer

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Beware the peril of poison ivy (and the rest)

Plants have great potential to harm as well as please. Giant hogweed, chicory (cichorium), rue and achillea are among many that may cause skin allergies, although all are attractive. One garden centre has even withdrawn rue because of bad publicity about its poisonous properties. It is a shame. I have scars from a hogweed burn but I still enjoy the plant.

If you eat the sedum or sweet-*smelling shrub* cionura *or the* leaves of some figs, you will be in pain, and laburnum is terribly poisonous. Parts of the yew are fatal when eaten.

The Poisons Unit at Guy's Hospital in London, which takes calls from hospitals nationwide about poisonings, *has a top ten of poisonous plant* inquiries (see panel).

According to Dr Liz Dauncey of Kew Gardens, eating the fruit of the *plants marked with stars is not* expected to cause harmful effects unless taken in substantial quantities. However, if any vomiting or abdominal pain is experienced, medical help should be sought immediately.

Unlike France, where the Govern*ment funds* local *identification* services to check that plants and fungi gathered in the wild are edible, in Britain we have to contact a hospital if we *suspect somebody, usually a child,* has eaten something poisonous. If that poison is an insecticide, identification and therefore antidote is straightforward, but plant poisonings are more tricky because the hospital cannot always be sure of the correct *identification* of a plant. So the Royal Botanic Gardens has produced a CD-Rom called *Poisonous Plants in Britain and Ireland*. A similar CD-Rom about fungi is due out this month. *If you* do think someone has been poisoned, make the victim lie down and telephone your local hospital. Keep a sample of the plant.

You may have noticed that an increasing number of plants sold in garden centres are labelled as harmful. This is in line with the Horticultural Trades Association code of practice and is a useful warning.

Children should be taught from an early age about the potency of plants. My daughters, now six and seven, spent their early summers in a patio garden with a laburnum at one end. When *they* were at the stage when babies put everything in their *mouths*, they were watched constantly. But gradually they learnt to distinguish the poisonous plants from the harmless ones.

POISONOUS PLANTS TO WATCH OUT FOR

- ☐ *laburnum (poisonous)*
- ☐ *honeysuckle**
- ☐ *cotoneaster**
- ☐ *deadly nightshade (poisonous — the victim has usually made it into a pie, mistaking it for other plants)*
- ☐ *woody nightshade (poisonous)*
- ☐ *yew (poisonous)*
- ☐ *sweet peas**
- ☐ *pyracantha**
- ☐ *elder**
- ☐ *mahonia**

A festival of colour, even at the fringe

■ Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (0131-552 7171)

One mile north of the city centre. Open all year (except Christmas Day and New Year's Day). 10am-8pm until the end of August: 10am-6pm Sept-Oct: 10am-4pm Nov-Feb. Free

Get away from the frenzy of the Edinburgh Festival, which starts this weekend, with a relaxing visit to this botanic garden, one of the oldest in the country. There are fine heather and peat gardens, and the birch collection is extensive.

But this is far more than the best of Scottish planting — 11 glasshouses hold an extensive and well-displayed selection of subtropical and tropical plants — because the views down across to the Firth of Forth are splendid.

GARDENS TO VISIT

■ Great Maytham Hall, Rolvenden, near Cranbrook, Kent (01580 241346)

Four miles west of Tenterton. Open Wed-Thurs, 2-5pm until end of August, last admission 4pm. Garden only £1.50, children 75p

Great Maytham is said to have inspired Frances Hodgson Burnett to write *The Secret Garden*. When she stayed at the house, the walled garden was an almost impenetrable, overgrown orchard.

Today, borders in and around the walled gardens are thick with penstemons, hebes, daisy-like leucanthemum and solanum. Cream and pink water lilies *dot the pond*, an ancient mulberry tree dangles its arms over the croquet lawn, a *pomegranate* flourishes on one south-facing wall, and there is a herb border, a new hosta bed and newly-planted lime avenue.

■ Little Upcott Garden, Marsh Green, near Rockbeare, Devon (01404 822797)

Four miles east of M5 J29, ten miles east of Exeter. Open today — for the National Gardens Scheme, with a share of profits going to the Cats Protection League — and tomorrow, 1.30-5.30pm. At other times by appointment only. £1.50, children 50p

The garden's two acres are tended by Mike and Maureen Jones, who are plantsmen with an unusual design ability. There are plenty of grey foliage plants, and this weekend the 5ft self-supporting *purple-flowered Verbena boariensis* will be at its best and the second flush of roses will be giving some colour. The garden has a good structure, although it is informal in style with a certain amount of self-seeding allowed. The Joneses rarely use chemicals so there is plenty of wildlife including some ducks around the pond area and some hens, *sheep and cats* — visitors' dogs have to be kept on leads.

If you miss today's opening, Mr and Mrs Jones are willing to open the garden by *appointment*.

JANE OWEN

Victoria waterlilies at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

Alex O'Connell gets lost in a 30-room manor which is home to a public relations guru

The drawing room has a cushioned platform at one end

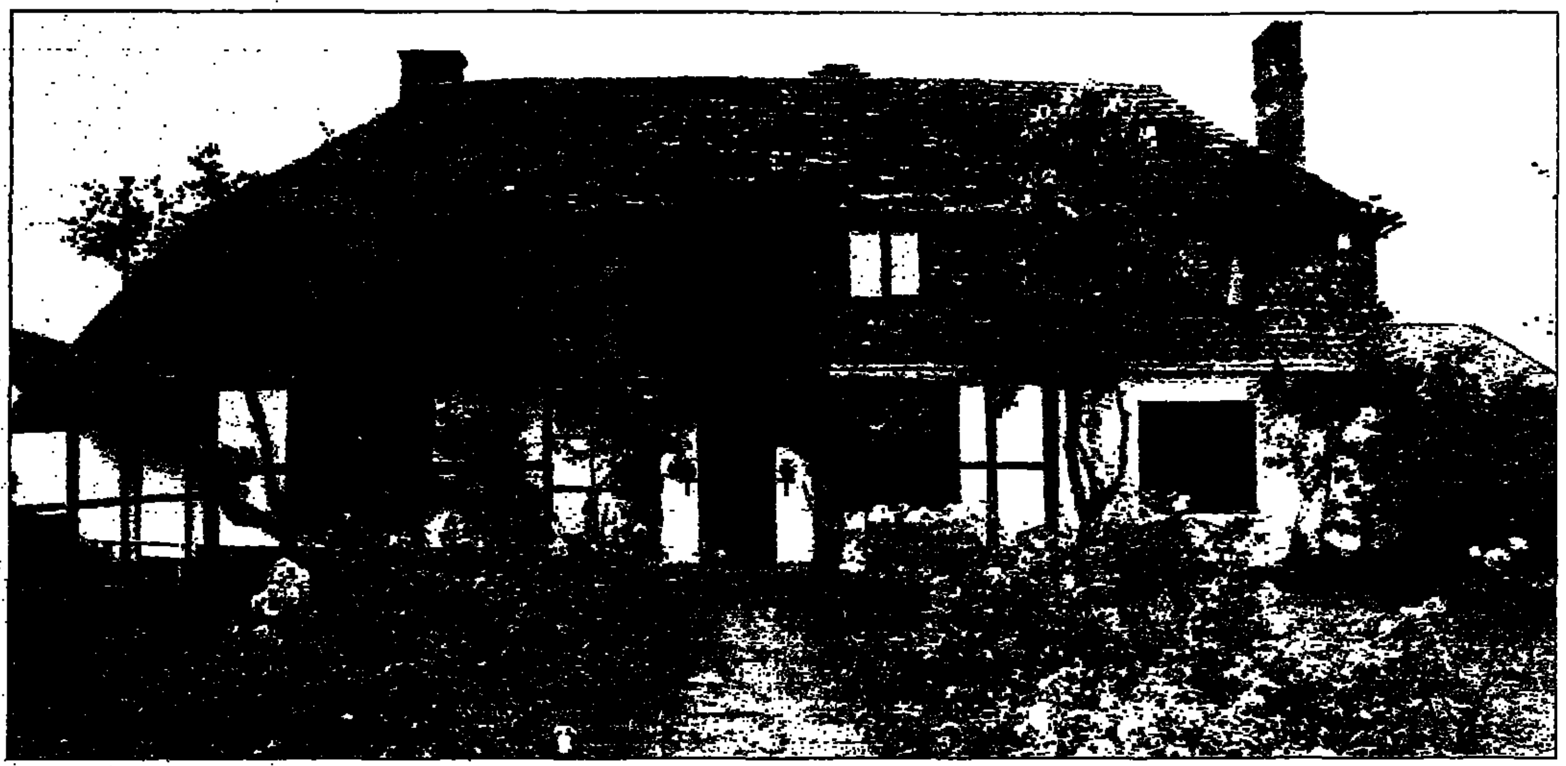
DES JENSON

Matthew Freud with son George. "The best thing about converting a house is being able to decide on every detail"

Des res that's ab fab

Rock-star belts used to be long, leathery fastening devices for keeping snakeskin trews above the hips of lanky pop stars. Of late, the words have earned a new meaning and describe discreet zones, usually in the Home Counties, where Liam, Bono *et al* can have their friends round to play, while keeping out of the public eye.

Matthew Freud, the public relations guru (Pepsi, Planet Hollywood) and man about town — the son of Clement, nephew of Lucian, brother of Emma and great-grandson of Sigmund — lives right in the buckle of it, as it were. Brewhurst House, near Loxwood, West Sussex, is as tucked away as it is possible to be without going to the Highlands. Although Kylie Minogue, Mike Rutherford (of Genesis) and Alvin Stardust are a hop away, the Brewhurst estate is the ultimate seclusion zone — reached through an unsignposted gate at the bottom of a long, winding lane.



The Grade II listed 30-room Elizabethan pile, part of a small estate which includes a cottage, two barns and a swimming pool, is set in 61 acres

He bought the house two years ago. It is a Grade II listed 30-room Elizabethan pile, part of a small estate which includes a cottage, two barns, livery stables and a swimming pool, all set in about 61 acres of land. The Freuds (wife Caroline and sons George and Jonah) are reluctantly selling up. "It is a very big weekend house. We have a small place in Kensington and we felt that we'd got it the wrong way around," he says. The family have bought a house in Notting Hill Gate.

The previous owners, the Riley-Smiths, were a grand but eccentric old Sussex family who wiled away the days breeding goats, collecting Toby jugs and filling every available inch of wall space with pictures and knick-knacks. The Freuds have nothing against Toby jugs, but asked Michael Randall, the architect who designed their London house, for more selective decoration.

There was a lot of work to be done and the Freuds lived in a cottage on the estate for six months while it was completed. The result is interestingly oxymoronic — a sort of a huge cosy cottage with hanging beams, dark wood floors and lumpy plaster.

The master suite is hopelessly grand with French tapestries and a huge bed, but downstairs there is a pinball den and a puja room, with kitsch shrines and Indian oddments. There are many personal touches — furniture shipped back from Freud's travels. "When we bought the house Caroline was pregnant and we had just come back from Bali and got the idea for this" — he points to a huge cushioned platform in the drawing room with a cage at one end — a sort of cross between the Marquis de Sade's boudoir and a children's play area. A particularly handy spot for tipsy, tiresome dinner-guests? "Yes, sometimes you need cages for grown-ups too," he says. Freud is a veritable Inspector Gadget. Wired into the Elizabethan splendour are sensor lights and a huge television tuned into 500 channels.

The music system is enviable, with volume controls on the walls of each room. The sound quality is so good that even when you're in the orchard, admiring Claudia and Naomi in the pot-bellied pig pen, you feel as though you're sandwiched between a pair of wardrobe speakers.

At Brewhurst nothing has been left to chance: "I'm a complete control freak," says Freud proudly. "What's fantastic about doing it from scratch is that you make a decision about every single detail." This meant making sure that even the radiator caps matched the bath taps.

It is the perfect party house. A fortieth birthday party for the scriptwriter Richard Curtis was held in the barn: "It was sit-down for 200, all the guests turned up on coaches with stetsons," says Freud. Then there was his son Jonah's birthday party, with Indian tents, low tables, cushions and an ice-cream bar.

So who is he expecting to buy it? "Well, Noel and Liam have been looking in the area," he says, "but really, it is a PR man's house," he smiles, safely delivering another perfectly quotable quote.

● *Agent: Knight Frank, Guildford: 01483 565171*

Hanch Hall near Lichfield, Staffordshire (Weekend, August 2) is for sale through Knight Frank (0171-629 8171).

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Brewhurst, near Loxwood,
West Sussex.

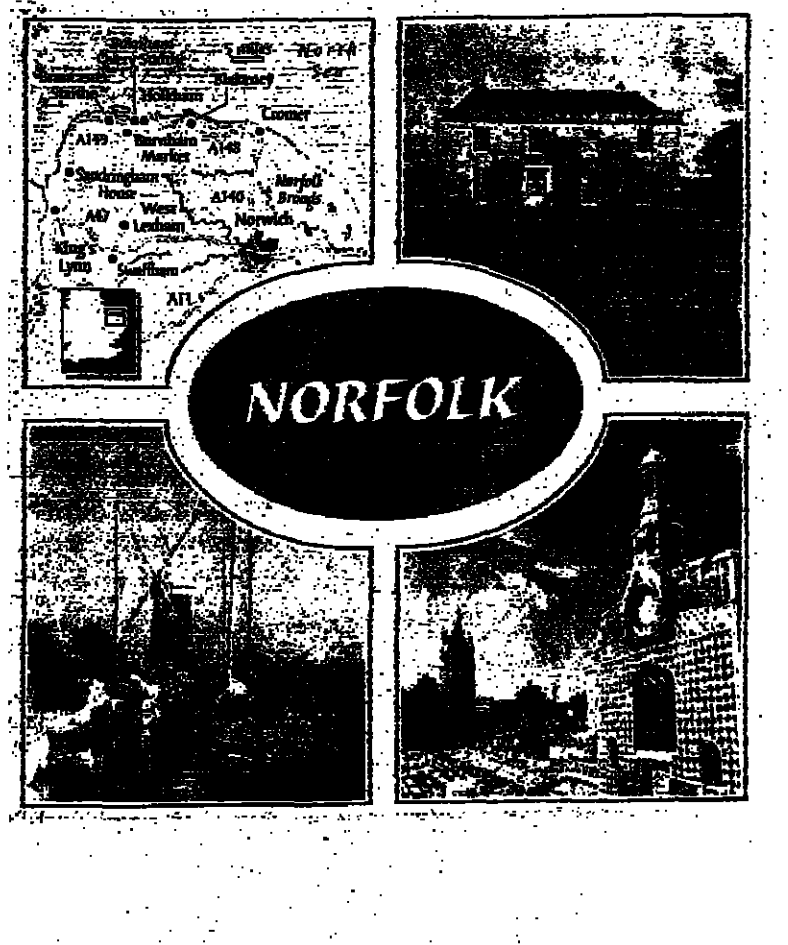
- **Price:** The house with 14 acres is to be offered in September for £850,000 (in lots or as a whole)
- **Travel:** regular train service from Guildford to Waterloo (35 minutes), Horsham to Victoria (50 minutes) or Billingshurst to Victoria (one hour).
- **Entertainment:** hunting at Chiddingfold, racing at Sandown Park and golf at Shillinglee Park. Sailing on the South Coast and numerous walks and rides.
- **Shopping:** home-grown veg; supermarkets in Horsham

DREAM HOMES OF THE PRs

PETER MANDLESON, Minister without Portfolio, shares his time between his Victorian Hartlepool constituency house and the Regency townhouse he recently moved into in the trendy area of Notting Hill Gate. Prices for similar properties are £600,000 to £625,000.

LIZ BREWER, society hostess, shares her five-storey, six-bedroom Belgravia home of 19 years with her daughter, Tallulah, and her office. With a conservatory and a "wild but fabulous" garden, her house could fetch more than £900,000 if it was put on the market.

TIM BELL, former press consultant to Baroness Thatcher, lives in a Georgian terraced house in the heart of Belgravia. It is surrounded by a 9ft privet hedge to ensure his privacy from the media. A neighbouring four-bedroom house recently sold for £1.65 million.



PROPERTY PROFILE: NORFOLK

A weekly look at the property market around Britain

Attractions: Unspoilt sandy beaches along the north Norfolk coast lure many weekenders and sailors, particularly around the villages of Holkham, Blakeney, Burnham, Overy Staithe and Brancaster Staithe. Best inland address is genteel Burnham Market, a haven for urban sophisticates. The Norfolk Broads appeal to boatmen. The city of Norwich has a fine Norman cathedral and 12th-century castle. The county has royal connections. Queen Victoria bought Sandringham House for Edward, Prince of Wales, in 1861. And the area was also the childhood home of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The market: Doing quite nicely. Beltons in King's Lynn reports that viewings have almost doubled in the past year. Strutt & Parker in Norwich says prices have risen by 10 to 15 per cent in the same period. It has 700 applicants on its mailing list, and currently holds 60 properties. Savills in Norwich reckons that 60 per cent of buyers come from outside the area.

Prices rose by 48 per cent in 1988 alone, says Savills. The market fell by 30 to 40 per cent during the recession, according to Strutt & Parker, which reckons that the market began to improve slowly in 1995. Real recovery only began this year, however.

Expect to pay: About £110,000 to £120,000 for a three-bedroom detached cottage; £200,000 to £250,000 for a farmhouse with land and £350,000 to £450,000 for a medium-size country house, says Strutt & Parker. Period properties are in great demand, says Belton, with the best buys in south Norfolk. And being on the sea side of the road in coastal villages can add £20,000 to your house, says Bedfords.

Significant sale: The Manor House, at West Lexham, five miles from Swaffham, was recently sold by Strutt & Parker for considerably more than its £550,000 guide price, despite needing renovation. The Grade II listed Georgian-fronted house, in 20 acres with two cottages, was on the market for five weeks, with five bidders going to best and final offers.

AMANDA LOOSE

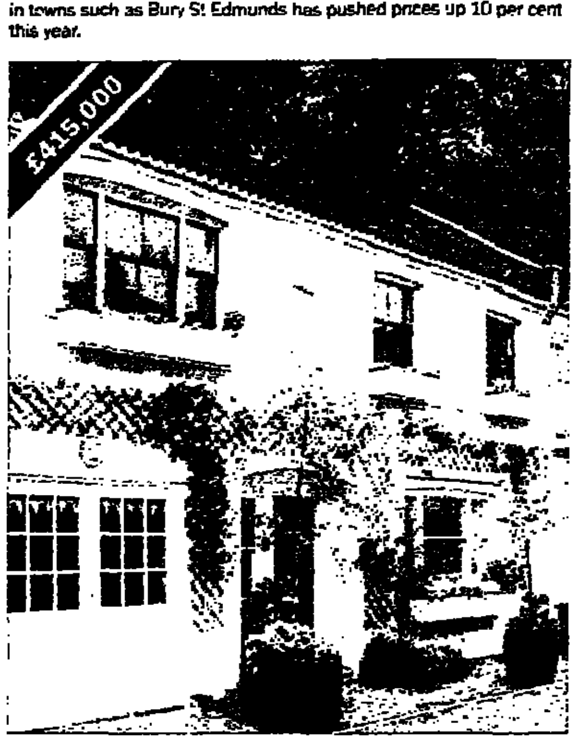
HOMESWAP

What the same money will buy around the country

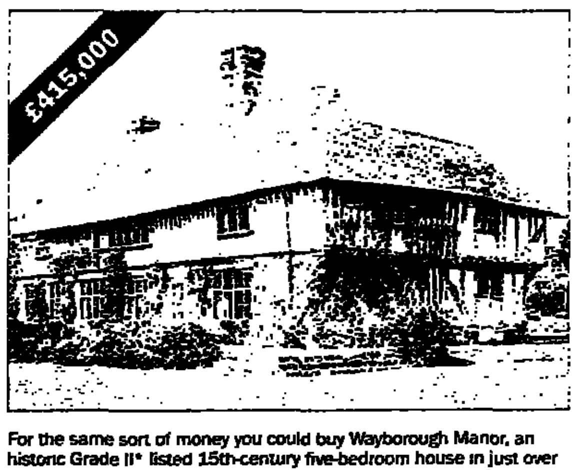
DESPITE the summer recess, well-located houses in central London are changing hands within hours of coming on to the market. In Chelsea, it is not uncommon for three or more buyers to be competing for the same house, with properties going over guide prices.

Mile-for-mile from London, lower Kent offers the best value property in the South East. Prices around Canterbury, which is only 60 miles from London but an hour and a half on the train, are 10 per cent cheaper than in other areas within an equivalent distance from the capital, although they are rising. Country houses over £300,000 have gained 5 per cent this year, reports Calcutt Maclean Standen in Canterbury.

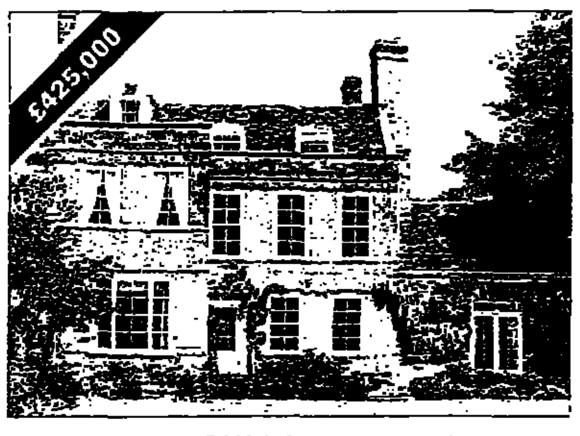
In Suffolk, the estate agent Bedfords reports a move back to the towns, with well-heeled "empty-nesters" looking to trade in their rambling country retreats for more modest period town houses offering better security and easier maintenance. A shortage of supply in towns such as Bury St Edmunds has pushed prices up 10 per cent this year.



This two-bedroom mews house in Elm Park Lane, Chelsea, west London, is for sale at £415,000 (John D. Wood, 0171-352 1484).



For the same sort of money you could buy Wayborough Manor, an historic Grade II* listed 15th-century five-bedroom house in just over an acre, at Minster, near Ramsgate, Kent (Calcutt Maclean Standen, 01233 812060).



Spend a little more (£425,000) in Suffolk, and you could be the proud owner of 17 Westgate Street, an eight-bedroom, five-reception room, Georgian town house in large walled gardens, close to the centre of Bury St Edmunds (Bedfords, 01284 769999).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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Finding love among the ruins

Georgian window in the living room, awaiting renovation

HUW EVANS

Tender loving care needed: Steve and Sarah Jackson outside Portclew House, which they have been restoring for more than a year

Seventeen months ago Sarah and Steve Jackson fell in love with a 12-bedroom Georgian property in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. "There were holes in the roof, the house had been vandalised, cattle had left their mark, doors and fireplaces were missing, ceilings were down and the grounds were overgrown. But we knew immediately that we wanted it," Mrs Jackson says.

The asking price at the time was about £160,000 — way above what the Jacksons felt they could afford. In the end, though, they managed to secure Portclew House for considerably less than that, completing the deal in May last year.

Since then the couple — Mr Jackson is a self-employed builder — have worked on the place tirelessly. They have cleared the garden, reroofed the house, rerendered two of the outside walls and completely restored the servants' quarters. It is these quarters that Mr and Mrs Jackson and their boys — Geraint, ten, Craig, eight, and Matthew, six — moved into a short while ago while work progresses on the rest of the building.

By this time next year, the Grade II listed house near Pembroke should be open for bed and breakfast — an option which seemed the most obvious, given the number of bedrooms, says Mrs Jackson. The restoration of the building has delighted Save Britain's Heritage, the organisation which over the past 20 years has campaigned to save historic (in terms of age and architectural merit) buildings from demolition and neglect.

The 125 or so reports that Save has issued include eight on historic buildings in England and Wales that are "at risk" from neglect and dilapidation. Neglect often means in a sad state of repair; sometimes the buildings are almost falling down. Most are listed.

Richard Pollard, secretary of Save, estimates that more than a thousand properties have been brought to the public's attention — mansions, castles, lighthouses, mills, barns, medieval cottages, coastal fortifications, pubs, factories and hotels. "We don't have the resources to find out what happens to all the buildings we feature, but in terms of raising awareness the reports have been very successful," he says.

In a report in December 1995, Save highlighted Portclew House, saying "the house is crying out for major repair to restore it to the comfortable and elegant family home it once was". The property had been with Pembroke estate agents Guy Thomas & Co since 1994 and had attracted some interest. Save's exposure brought fresh inquiries, although the Jacksons already knew it was on the market because they lived locally.

This year Save mentioned the property again, this time as a success story, in its eighth annual report on buildings at risk called *The State They're In*. "Tremendous news" is how the restoration is described.

The State They're In highlights 120 properties which Save says need urgent attention. They include an oast house in Kent, a former brewery in Cumbria, an 18th-century house in north Devon, mansions, barns, industrial buildings and churches.

"About a third of the properties in the report are actually on the market, another third are those where the owners might be open to negotiation and the rest are not for sale but are put into the report to publicise the state of the buildings and to encourage their owners to restore them," Mr Pollard says.

Among the properties featured and already sold are an early-18th-century barn in Norfolk, a water-pumping station in Lancashire and a small 18th-century building in Blandford Forum, Dorset. The latter has gone to the local Signpost Housing Association, which says it will start refurbishing it this month for future renting.

Save hears about most of the cases from building conservation officers at local councils and it is to them that Mr Pollard says prospective buyers should turn, both for advice on what can and cannot be done to the property and about any possible grants. In Scotland there is a Register of Buildings at Risk run by the Scottish Civic Trust, where the public can go for details of properties.

Twice a year a selection of the register's properties appear in a *Buildings at Risk* bulletin with a brief description, and details of the risks, the owner or agent, and availability.

However, taking on an historic house in poor condition is not for the faint-hearted. "You've got to be patient and tremendously committed but the rewards are fantastic," Mr Pollard says. Mr Jackson agrees. "To live in a place like this is beyond my wildest dreams, but there's still a mountain to climb with the work we have to do."

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

● The State They're In, *£10.95, from Save, 68 Battersea High St, London SW11 3HX (0171-228 3336). Scottish Civic Trust, 42 Miller St, Glasgow G1 1DT (0141-221 1466). Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 37 Spital Sq, London E1 (0171-377 1644).*

A CAUTIONARY TALE

An expensive rural idyll

There is a tendency for the heart to rule the head when flicking through one of Save Britain's Heritage (Save) reports on endangered buildings. In the manner of *Country Life* property advertisements, the pictures of tumbledown cottages, farmhouses and Elizabethan manor houses can give rise to dreams of a rural idyll that may appear, on the face of it, possible to realise.

The prices of the properties on offer are staggeringly low, and the chance of replacing the mock Tudor of suburbia with the authentic Tudor of the creaking houses and crumbling shells that the group wants to preserve can be too exciting to resist.

However, the initial attractions can drown in a sea of bureaucracy and mounting restoration costs. By definition, the properties on the books of Save are those which their owners have found most difficult to deal with. Apart from their commitment and enthusiasm, there is no reason why a new buyer should find things any easier.

Buying the property in the first place can be difficult, as was the case with Brook Cottage in Hoofield, Cheshire. Save carried an enticing picture of Brook Cottage, a timber-framed 17th-century affair, in its 1996 report. It was described as "a peach of a cottage needing fairly swift repair in order to be economically viable" and brought a flood of inquiries.

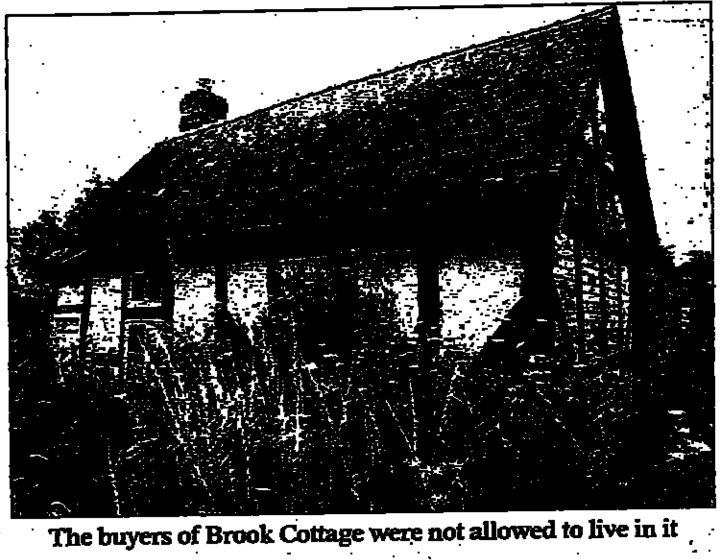
This was unfortunate, for the group was unaware that Gareth and Michelle Rowland had already bought it, along with a bungalow, for £95,000.

The confusion was cleared up, but the Rowlands, who bought the property from a building society which repossessed it, ran straight into problems. The two-up, two-down cottage was declared uninhabitable as a condition of planning consent for the bungalow to be built in the late 1970s. The Rowlands owned Brook Cottage but were not allowed to live in it.

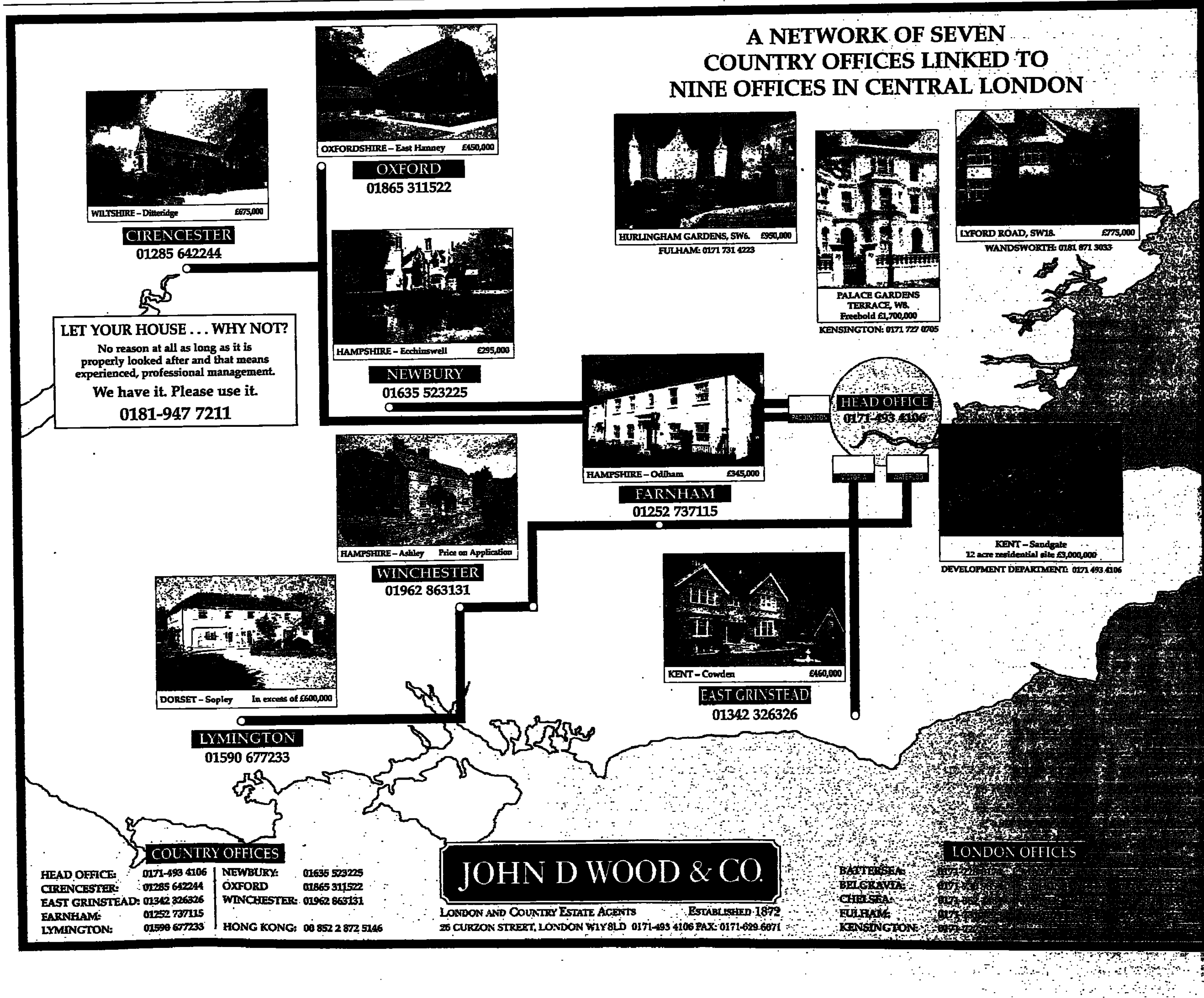
After a long fight, Gareth Rowland persuaded Chester City Council to revoke the ban. He was then refused permission for an extension to the cottage, listed Grade II, and had to go back into battle. He submitted plans for a traditional oak-framed wing, hiring an archaeologist and specialist joiners to handle the construction.

After spending thousands of pounds more than the initial estimate, his new home has taken shape. It has since been cited by the council as a "textbook case of sensitive restoration". It may well be, but at some price. As Gareth Rowlands says: "I have stopped counting the cost."

SAVE



The buyers of Brook Cottage were not allowed to live in it



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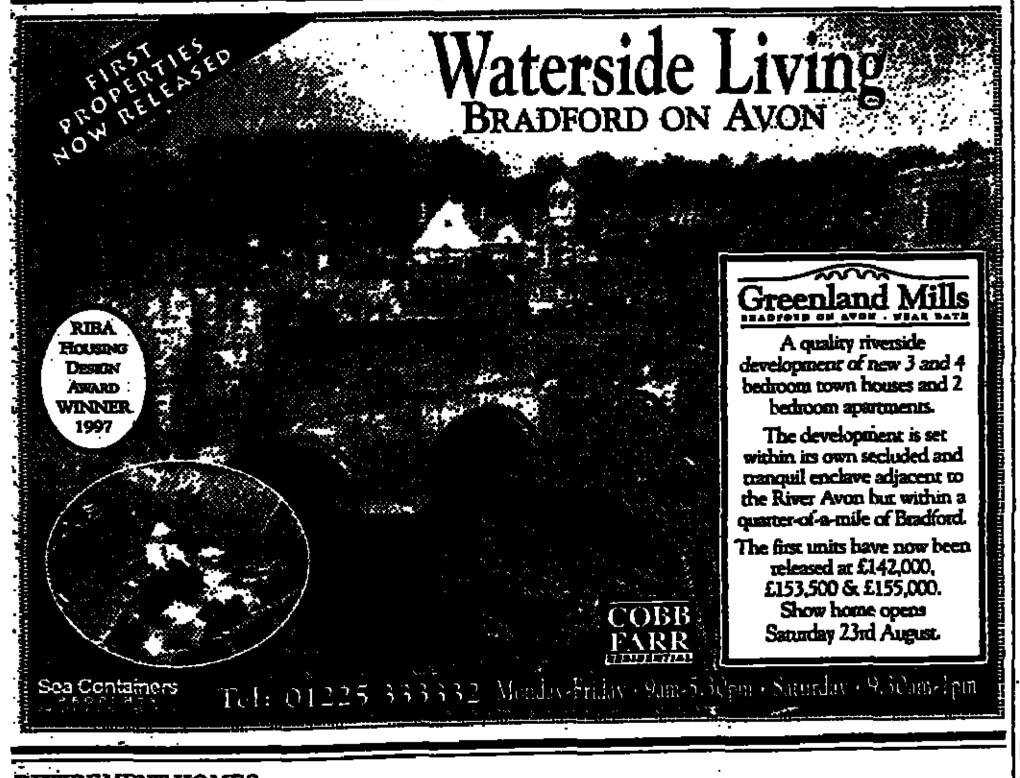
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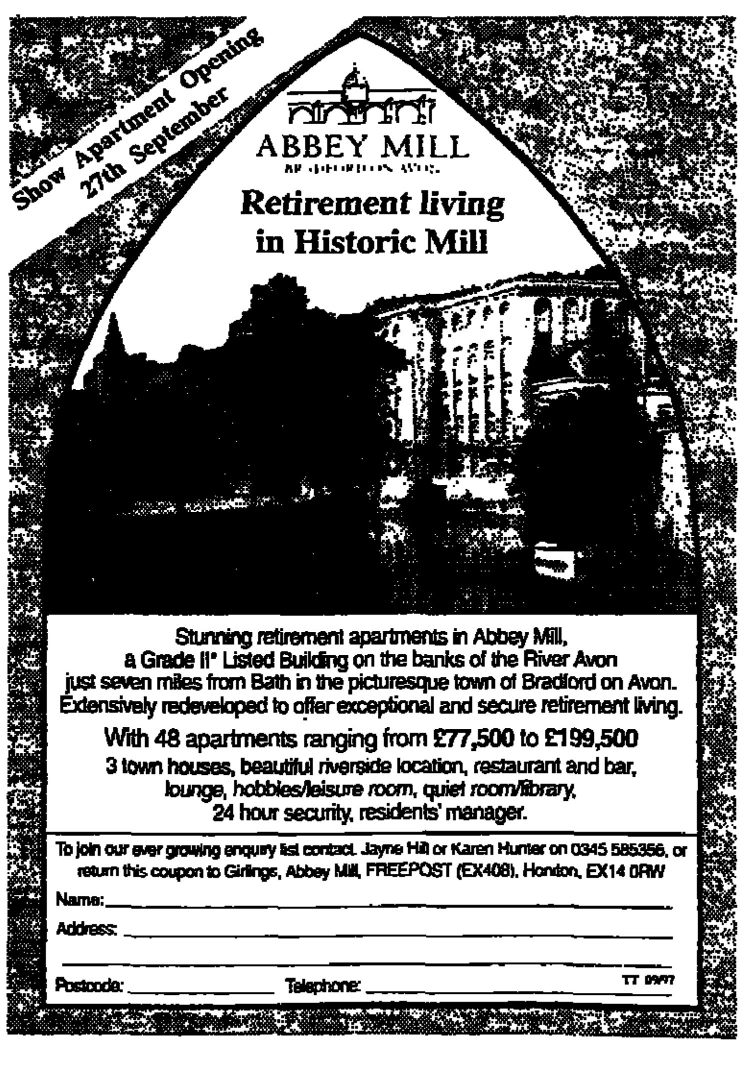
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Crowing cockerels, noisy peacocks and dogs are annoying – but there is a solution, says **James Allcock**

SALLY ANNE THOMPSON

Cats dig up flower beds but a water pistol will keep them at bay

Driven animal crackers

Our own pets, of course, are paragons. But as locals in Ludovic Kennedy's village of Avebury have discovered, other people's can be a serious nuisance — ranking almost as high as stereos, lawn mowers, power drills and raves.

Of all the animal irritants, barking dogs are probably top of the unpops — usually for two reasons. It is either boredom — being shut indoors, alone, for seven or eight hours every day — or because their over-protective attitude towards home territory makes them bark at any unfamiliar person or noise. And when this has been going on for a nerve-wrecking amount of time, back yards become neighbourhood war zones, with both complainants and dog owners taking up entrenched positions. Then it is time for the law and local council, which usually results in draconian measures, such as "Get rid of the dog" or "Have it debarked within 28 days".

And the solution? A home-alone dog may be better off living elsewhere, but that means finding someone to take him on and his present owner agreeing to let him go. Debarking is not an option. While it is possible to devoice a dog by removing his vocal cords and changing his bark into a low squeak, this does not make the dog's life any better. This operation is acceptable in some countries, America in particular, but vets in Britain consider it mutilation.

There are electronic devices designed to stop barking. Some give an electric shock to the dog when he makes a noise, others produce an unpleasant smell (usually orange-peel based). The shocking ones are unacceptable — they are based on fear and pain — but deterrents based on smell can be useful when territorial defences trigger barking.

Neighbourly disputes can be resolved without acrimony, if common sense is used. For example, those non-dog owners who are home could offer to take the noisy offender for a walk every weekday; the really generous could even invite the offender back to their home for a little snack afterwards. A one-way deal, I hear you saying? Not at all. For dog lovers without their own canine to cuddle, this is an ideal opportunity to have the occasional use of a dog, without the cost.

And if that sounds too much like a good Samaritan, there is only one answer: turn up the radio. Not only will it block out the noise, but may put the mutt under the delusion that there are people around having a good time. (Choose the station wisely. The last thing you need is for him to join in the howling that constitutes much of the output classed as music.)

Bird noise can be another nuisance. The sweet dawn chorus of songbirds is one thing, but the crowing of cockerels is another, as magistrates in several counties have discovered recently when asked to adjudicate on "cockerel" cases. Sadly for the birds, magistrates do not have soft spots for these creatures, and many have been disposed of (not, I am pleased to say, to chicken houses — adult cockerels are generally too tough to be roasted). If the pot is not your way of dealing with clucking creatures, there are other methods. But darkening the poultry house so he does not realise dawn has broken, or fitting his perch close to the roof so he hits his head on the ceiling when he stretches his neck to crow, are rarely successful.

Castration (canonisation in the bird world) does work, and although it is prohibited in commercial poultry, it can be used for pet birds, ending the crowing as well as preventing any more baby crowers being produced from that cockerel's harem.

But noise is not the only pest: wandering animals can also wreak havoc in gardens, with cows, sheep or horses trampling immaculate lawns, chomping rose beds and uprooting herbaceous borders, undoing five years' care in as many minutes. Cats, too, are notorious for digging up seed beds. For these feline pests, water is the best repellent — whether administered in a short, sharp spurt or in a constant spray produced by an overhead irrigation system. An alternative is sprinkling orange peel on open soil, which most moggies do not like, and encouraging use of an uncultivated "set-aside" area of fine dry soil in an out-of-sight spot as an attractive feline lavatory. For all the fuss made about electronic deterrents, I am not convinced about their effectiveness: I have been given one or two of these devices to test. Some dogs and cats are put off, but others simply raise an ear or eyebrow and take no notice. Technology is improving, but I am still a sceptic.

Four-legged creatures are one thing: flying and wandering birds such as peacocks, ducks, geese and swans are another, as it is impossible to fence them out. They stroll along casually, taking a peck of this and that on the way. (In addition, none of them are toilet-trained and their passage is well marked on the shoes of anyone following behind.)

I wish Ludovic Kennedy luck, for now that four peacocks have taken possession of Avebury, the village will continue to be a noisy, and dirty, place. They will be impossible to train and keep in their place, for peacocks are slow learners. The death penalty may be his only option.

Deterring pigeons from invading your space can be done by installing pigeon strips — a wobbly plastic material that makes the birds feel insecure when perching. But to me all that does is move them to someone else's back yard, which is where many of the animal nuisances finish up.

If it is your pet, think of other people. If you are the victim, consider what is best for the animal. And if you have the patience of Job and the wisdom of Solomon, set up a counselling service about pet nuisances. That is what's needed.

● **Advice:** If you do have a nuisance animal, talk to your neighbour first (they may not realise what a pest their pet is being). If that fails, contact the local environmental health officer or dog warden, if there is one. Cat trespassing is more difficult to prevent. The law allows feline creatures freedom to wander where they like.

TONY STONE

Cockerels loudly proclaiming the dawn each morning can make neighbours' lives a misery

Lonely dogs may bark all day

A VET WRITES

Q **My West Highland white terrier has a sty or cyst on his lower eyelid. We bought some eye ointment and have been putting it on as best we can, but it does not go away or even shrink in size. Can you suggest a cure?**

A You told me the name of the ointment you have been using and I do not recognise it, nor is it listed in the Veterinary Data Sheets. Perhaps the ointment is unsuitable. Or the swelling may be a wart on the eyelid, in which case ointment will not help and the only treatment is to remove it surgically. A wart on the lower eyelid falls away from the eyeball. One on the upper lid falls on to the eyeball and may cause serious irritation to the cornea. In that respect, your dog is lucky. He will be luckier still if you take him to see your vet to find out what is happening and what to do about it.

Q **My six-year-old dalmatian has started to eat grass, which makes him sick, particularly during his morning walk. He is an active dog. I feed him twice a day on dry dogfood and he has at least three walks every day. He seems to be in considerable discomfort when he is being sick, but two minutes later he is his usual boisterous self. Could there be any deficiency in his diet?**

A Many dogs eat grass. Couch grass has an emetic effect and dogs will search for this particular species, possibly because they feel some vague abdominal discomfort. The resultant vomit is usually clear liquid and the blades of grass. Dogs with food in their stomachs do not feel a need to eat grass. There is no recognised deficiency which would be corrected by eating grass. Try giving your dog three smaller meals each day, one early morning and one as late as possible in the evening. Perfectly healthy dogs vomit from time to time and it does not appear to worry them or cause any pain. But if your dog is off-colour or sick several times in the same day, it is time to see the vet.

Dalmatian: grass problem

Q **My eight-year-old cat is wonderfully affectionate and spends hours sitting on my lap. But when she wakes up she will start to lick my arms. This is messy because she salivates at the same time and her tongue is quite rough. She does this mainly in the summer months, hardly ever in winter. Could she be short of salt? And, if so, how can I correct this?**

A A salt deficiency is most unlikely. Catfood contains enough salt and so does meat or fish. Cats lose very little salt by sweating. They perspire only on the feet and the tip of the tongue, not at all from their body skin. I think she is licking your arms because of an excess of affection. Mutual grooming is normal cat behaviour and she regards you as her best friend. The seasonal display of loving is probably explained by your wearing short sleeves in summer and long sleeves when it is colder.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Write to The Times Vet, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

Healing hands that help pets in pain

Spiritual healers are treating animals as well as humans, says **Carol Price**

A few months ago, Duncan Campbell, a butcher in the village of Westgate, Kent, found his six-year-old dog, Wiggs, in a sorry state one morning: "One eye had gone droopy and his legs seemed lifeless. He couldn't even stand up and relieve himself and he was whimpering in pain."

Mr Campbell rushed to a vet, where Wiggs, a Tibetan lhasa apso, stayed for a few days. But despite X-rays, tests and drugs (including steroids), and a bill of £322, "no one seemed to know what was wrong", Mr Campbell says. While he says he would never want to criticise the treatment — "I realise vets do the best they can" — he decided to turn to Joyce Stagg, a spiritual healer with a reputation for being able to help people and animals in pain.

"I'd always thought people like her were phoneys," Mr Campbell says. "But I felt I owed it to my dog to take a chance." He says that "all the way to Mrs Stagg's house in the car, Wiggs was crying like a baby. But the minute she picked him up, the crying stopped. She laid him on her shoulder and worked over him with her hands for about half an hour. Her hands seemed amazingly hot, and after that he was completely relaxed.

"Within a day or two he was a different dog: more alert, happier and able to jump down stairs. He still has a slight limp, and I'm still keeping up our trips to the vet, but I'm convinced Mrs Stagg got him better." Mrs Stagg is one of many people perceived to have a gift for healing which traditional medical science cannot explain. Increasing numbers of pet owners are seeking their services, if only to complement more orthodox veterinary care.

"We don't see ourselves as miracle workers able to cure things such as cancer or kidney disease overnight," Mrs Stagg says. "What we can do is use healing energy to release an animal from tension and pain and generally improve its quality of life."

Lindsy Dodd is a Cheshire-based spiritual healer, who mostly works with horses. She has dealt with more than 200 cases in the past four years and maintains that many of the problems horses suffer, behavioural or physical, "result from a human inability to appreciate how emotionally sensitive these animals are. Things like stress, anxiety and tension cause a tremendous build-up of negative energy around them, which in turn can weaken the immune system, nervous system and overall ability to heal."

Miss Dodd says she is aware of the scepticism with which many equestrians view her. "I see it the minute I walk into a stable yard. They're expecting someone with a crystal ball and gypsy earrings. Only when I get working my hands down a horse, and it starts to lick and chew, click its limb joints or send ripples down its muscles, do they appreciate that something real is going on."

She, like Mrs Stagg, will see only cases that have first received veterinary advice and treatment. Miss Dodd says she gets to the source of a problem area "by running my hands from the head, along the back and down the legs until they instinctively seem to stop at a certain place on the horse. Then my hands experience a hot, tingling or aching feeling and I sense I'm drawing out some negative energy, which has to go before a problem can start to heal."

Marcia Jennings began suspending her disbelief of such treatment last year after Max, her seven-year-old thoroughbred, apparently injured a front fetlock when jumping from his field over an iron gate. "The vet treated him," she says, "but he remained lame. Then some people said they'd had a pony treated by Lindsy Dodd. I watched her work over Max for about three-quarters of an hour, during which he looked so relaxed that he was practically asleep. Eventually, she got down to the injured fetlock, put her hands around it and Max shot up as if something dramatic had happened. After two more treatments he was sound again."

Most spiritual healers with any credibility do not seek to replace either vets or doctors and will emphasise from the outset the limits of what may or may not be achievable. They also tend to see their work as more of a vocation than a money-spinning career. Some, like Mrs Stagg, charge nothing. Miss Dodd charges £15, plus travel expenses, which goes to Working for Animals, a rescue organisation she runs with a partner.

• What do veterinarians think about spiritual healers? Paul DeVile, a spokesman for the British Veterinary Association, says: "The problem vets have with spiritual healing is that there is no clinical and scientific evidence to convince us that it works. If owners insist on trying it, most vets would say that, providing the owners have already sought conventional treatment, they should go ahead. We don't know that much about it, but we'll always be interested to see what happens."

● *Joyce Stagg only takes cases by personal referral. Lindsy Dodd can be contacted at Working for Animals (01625 590246). For information contact the British Association of Holistic Nutrition and Medicine (01252 843282) or the National Federation of Spiritual Healers (0891 616080; calls cost 50p a minute).*

HOWARD BARLOW

Lindsy Dodd with Plum: "My hands experience a hot, tingling or aching feeling"

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'Farming is a highly mechanised business, but how many women do you see driving a combine harvester or the ploughs?'

Corn dollies put the kettle on

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

Fearful of putting a politically incorrect foot in it, I can hardly bring myself to remind you of the *old country saw*: "A woman, a dog, and a walnut tree; the more you beat 'em, the better they be". Not one sentiment expressed in those few words finds a place in the minds of right-thinking people in the late 20th century. Wife-beating is repulsive, the use of violence against dogs to make them perform is an equally vile notion, and hitting walnut trees seems a pointless pastime (these days *you are supposed to reason verbally* with your plants).

Having said that, I have a walnut tree which refuses to bear fruit and is failing to respond to talking therapies. Shall I threaten it with the axe? Or would committed tree-huggers blanch and march against it? You cannot be too careful these days.

I mention all this only because I have recently been surprised at how small are the inroads of political correctness into country life, especially if you are a woman. I pose the question honestly: has the role of women in the countryside changed at all in the past 50 years? While the Sixties sisterhoods in the cities were burning their *underpinnings*, what was happening down on the farms?

Pretty much the same as always, I imagine: women were getting on with the work, standing in for men who went missing and wondering what to make their husbands for tea. There will be *exceptions, I know, but for most people* things seem to have changed hardly at all since the 16th century when Thomas Tusser wrote: *Good husbandmen must moile and toile,/ to laie to live by laboured feeld:/ Their wives at home must keepe such coile,/ as their acres may profit yield.*

Let me tell you about a farmhouse kitchen in which I was sitting only a few days ago. The farmer, a jovial chap, kindly, understanding, salt of the earth, offered me a cup of tea. I accepted. Expecting him to rise from his chair and take the three paces which would have brought him to the electric kettle, and the further stride which would *have* placed him at the tap. I was surprised when, instead, he made for the door. It was double the distance required to get to the *kettle and then to the* tap, but he clearly thought the journey was worth it. Having got to the door, he opened it, gazed into the far distance till his eyes fell upon his wife, and bellowed at the top of his voice: "Come and make us a cup of tea, love!" So far *from* the house was the woman that a decent pair of binoculars would have been needed to judge the reaction on her face. Nevertheless, despite the distance, she dropped what she was doing, trudged across the farmyard, picked up *the kettle and carried* it those few paces to the the tap which, for the farmer, had been a journey too far.

Should she have ignored him? Or smacked him across the face and told him to get his own lousy tea? In the event, the woman just smiled and asked if we'd like a piece of cake to go with the tea. Sadly, I have seen it all before, more times than I can count. *Despite* the painful political correctness of *The Archers*, in real life this is the way it is. But also sitting in the kitchen was a young woman in her early twenties, new to country life and shocked to the core by what she had seen. She had been reared on the fruits of the fertile feminist fields of *inner London and now was confronting* the rawness of female country life. She could not believe what she was seeing.

However, a glance around the countryside reveals few women doing "men's jobs" or claiming men's privileges. The traditional excuse was that the heavy *manual labour required to till the land* was beyond what women could manage. The Land Army girls proved otherwise during the Second World War, but after that brief blossoming the countryside reverted to its former ways.

Now that farming is a highly mechanised business, there is no reason why women should not be able to perform *most* of the tasks required in the running of the farm, but how many women will you see driving a combine harvester this month, and driving the ploughs this autumn? Of course, there is much work that goes on backstage on a farm, often done by women and essential to its smooth running, but why is it always the men that get the leading roles?

And are most country women happy with this state of affairs? Is there some *unwritten contract into which women* enter when they take on the burden of country life that they will always perform as one of the chorus and never steal the limelight? And, if so, would they want it any other way? I know that there are women who are highly skilled shepherds, stockpersons, mistresses of foxhounds, gamekeepers and gardeners, but for every one of them my impression is that there are a dozen who are wearily trudging up the garden path answering the call to fill the kettle.

Henry Stephens, whose late-19th century *Book of the Farm* gives us a snapshot of rural life at that time, shows that attitudes towards women on the land have had no radical overhaul since he wrote: "For heavy crops [of corn] where large sheaves are made . . . three women will be required for every two men, or it may be two women for each man."

One of them to make the tea?

● Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

How to fly eggs and run a party

William Hague could learn valuable lessons when he takes his MPs on a bonding weekend, **Brian Pedley** writes

The group crosses the tarn on rafts of planks and drums

To the casual caller, the goings-on at the big house in Eskdale Green might seem a touch perplexing. On the grand terrace, blindfolded middle-aged men can be seen stumbling along in a line, narrowly missing the sundial. Others are visible behind trees, feeding a perspiring 20-stone Scottish prop-forward through a "spider's web" of tightened cord.

Our group is no exception. One morning, several of us are spotted climbing to the roof of a Gothic tower, from where we launch paper gliders into the Cumbrian drizzle. One of the aircraft does a slow nosedive on to the wet lawn, its cargo, a medium-sized egg, arriving miraculously unscrambled. Peter, in his mid-twenties, can hardly contain his relief: "It lives! The egg lives!" he shouts.

The group of 13 at this Outward Bound course is a diverse one: senior managers, accountants, senior sales representatives, *quality controllers, two* company vice-presidents and myself. We are at a Victorian mansion set in 60 secluded acres an hour and a half from the M6. Here, among the dry stone walls, the most technologically *advanced of mobile* phones are humbled into digital junk. "The solitude is part of what makes the product work," says John Howse, managing director of the charity's commercial division, Outward Bound Professional.

In the past 20 years, a booming outdoor industry has *developed and there are now* scores of companies using the outdoors to teach problem-solving, team-building and personal development. For this bankable blend of method and madness, blue-chip clients will pay up to £235 per employee per day.

Most of our group had never rock-climbed before. Big Graham, the Scottish lad, wisely refused to look down. *Around him* were the rocky fells. Five miles away was the coast at Ravenglass and the Irish Sea. From the valley floor, 200ft below, a handful of lambs bleated encouragement. Due east was Scafell, the second highest mountain in England. In front of him was a sheer 50ft granite face. "That's a hell of a lot of gravity," someone muttered. "*Rock climbing is a physical* and a mental challenge," trainer Peter Charnley told us. "It's a thinking person's sport." No one was arguing, least of all Big Graham, who conceded: "Halfway up, I was thinking of bottling out."

Jo Babbs, another trainer who had escaped to the outdoors from a scientific career, was a real tough nut, having just spent the night on Ben Nevis. Her job was to guide us through the science of team-building. "The employer is trying to get people throughout the company to work the same way," she says.

> Outward Bound developed kids at a turning point of their lives

Outward Bound was the wartime creation of Laurence Durning Holt, the manager of a shipping line, and Kurt Hahn, headmaster of *Gordonstoun. Holt* was appalled at the high fatality rate of young Merchant Navy recruits whose ships had been torpedoed. He *wanted to give them the tough*ness of older and tougher personnel, who seemed more able to survive the rigours of the open sea.

The first centre was established at Aberdovey in North Wales in 1941, and nine years later the mansion at Eskdale became the world's first Outward Bound Centre, catering to thousands of teenage boys who were sent by schools, employers and local authorities to experience "a *journey of* self-discovery", as the Duke of Edinburgh, patron of the charity, called it.

Outward Bound was a regime of ice-cold showers, early morning runs, athletics, plain food and rigorous outdoor survival training. "It was a 1950s boys-school atmosphere," Mr Howse says. "Matron weighed you when you arrived — and when you went away again, you were magically heavier. Outward Bound used the environment *to develop kids at that turning* point of their lives and it still does that."

These days, however, the delegates are a little older and not quite as fit. Our group of 13 were from various offices of *the multinational mining and* commodities group Minorco, and its recent acquisition, Tilcon Holdings. One of our first tasks could not have been further away from their everyday lives — to design, build *and launch a glider that* was capable of flying one egg over a minimum distance of ten *metres, with only* card, paper and sticky tape.

Of the three planes built, one plummeted disgracefully on to the terrace, the second (a handcrafted Boeing made by the company's executive vice-president) flew a birdlike 22 metres, and the other (ours, with an RAF felt-tipped han*dlebar moustache*) made a dismal flight, plummeting with a swirl. Back in the boardroom, there was open dissent within the camp. The youngest delegate, 21-year-old Paul, a technical assistant from *Burnley, protested that* he knew the design wouldn't work but that no one would *listen*. "I always thought it was too big," he said.

Andrew, a risk assessor, appeared uncharacteristically crestfallen. Others just seemed stumped. That was where Peter Charnuld came in, diplomatically suggesting that we could learn something from nature — from the formation *of wild geese.* "As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for each following bird," he explained. "By flying in V-formation, the flock adds 71 per cent greater flying range."

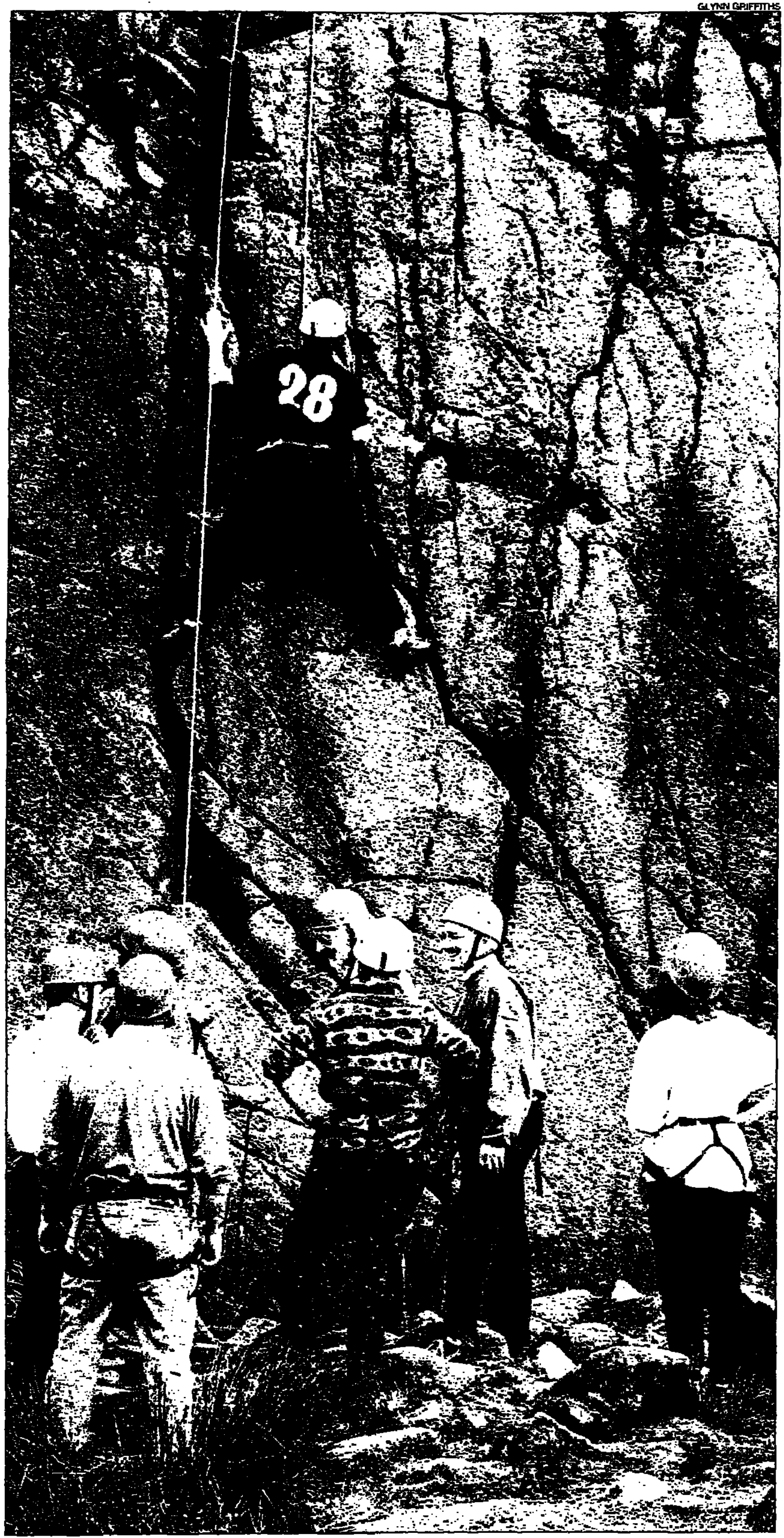
After this, something clicked in the group: the vice-president had volunteered for the orienteering sub-group: Paul had begun to crack the whip in his role of safety officer, and everyone had begun to listen.

The orienteers returned *within seconds of the deadline* and across the tarn floated two rafts of planks and drums, each with *seven people* on board, including Graham. From the Isle of Man, just visible in the haze, came the hint of a westerly breeze. Urged on by our cries, the breeze became a gust and *gently the egg wobbled* upwards on a string in a rattle of thin black plastic.

Three days ago, the Minorco 13 had hardly known each other. Now, after three gliders, two rafts, an aqueduct and a windmill, we had achieved the miraculous. We were a team — and we had flown an egg.

● *For further details on a range of Outward Bound courses, ring 01946 723281.*

GLYNN GRIFFITHS



Taking up the challenge to scale a sheer 50ft granite face near Eskdale in Cumbria. The exercise helps create a team spirit

Rather peckish woodpeckers

FEATHER REPORT

GREAT spotted woodpeckers are the black-and-white woodpeckers that *more and more* people are seeing in their gardens and even on their bird tables. They are one of the few species that have actually been increasing in numbers in Britain over the past 25 years.

The *most* interesting thing about them is probably their eating habit. They are very ingenious foragers. In summer, when there are plenty of insects on or under the bark of trees, they concentrate on *those*. They can easily turn over a piece of loose bark with their beak and then their tongue shoots out like a harpoon and spears any soft insects crawling about.

In winter, the great spotted *woodpecker digs deeper*. It goes hunting mainly on dead trees or branches and, with its sharp beak and powerful neck-muscles, it can bore a hole five or six inches deep into the wood, teasing out the *larvae and* beetles.

They also eat the seeds of fir cones, especially on the continent, and are skilled at finding cracks in tree-trunks, or carving out hollows for themselves, where they can wedge a *spruce cone* firmly *and attack* it for its contents.

THEY ARE acrobatic birds and will hang for a long time under a branch to get at insects on the bottom, though *they do not come down tree*-trunks headfirst. The females, which have a red patch under the tail like the males but no red on the nape, go up into the smaller twigs at the top of a tree more than the males do.

*In sum, they are omnivo*rous. In summer, they will snap up any eggs or nestlings they come across; in winter they will scoff the entire contents of a bird table.

At this time of the year they *revert to solitary lives, the* males, females and young all taking up their own patches of wood and garden. In the autumn they like to sit on the very tip of a pointed conifer tree and repeat loudly their one main call, a sharp "chack". The young, oddly enough, are more colourful than their parents, with red feathers right across the top of their head.

Great spotted woodpeckers, like green woodpeckers, are often amusing to watch. If you see one clinging to a tree-trunk, it may not fly off, but will go round the back and peer out at you. If you circle round the trunk, it will do the same, spiralling higher and higher before it gives up and goes undulating away.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — Watch for flocks of mistle thrushes on fields and in parks. Twitchers — tawny pipit, Landguard Nature Reserve, Suffolk; Kentish plover, Ferrybridge, Dorset; pied-billed grebe, Cotswold Water Park, Wiltshire. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*

PETER BROWN

Acrobatic woodpeckers

ON THE SPOT : PEMBRIDGE

Rural recommendations

The place: *The market square, Pembridge, Herefordshire.*

The view: Some may describe this tiny black-and-white village near the Welsh border as chocolate box, but the 14th-century medieval beams were easing themselves into the landscape long before the cocoa bean came to Britain.

The appeal: The weight of age has left many of the timbered houses and the pub leaning at alarming angles into the *gardens and lanes, lending an air of Hansel and Gretel.*

Aficionados: Mainly people who enjoy the spirit of Old England. I first visited 20 years ago at the invitation of a friend who chanced on the village and made it her home.

How to get there: From London: M40/A40 to Oxford, Cheltenham, Gloucester. A417-A49 to Ledbury and then Leominster. A44 to Pembridge.

OS reference: 50 390 580 (sheet 148).

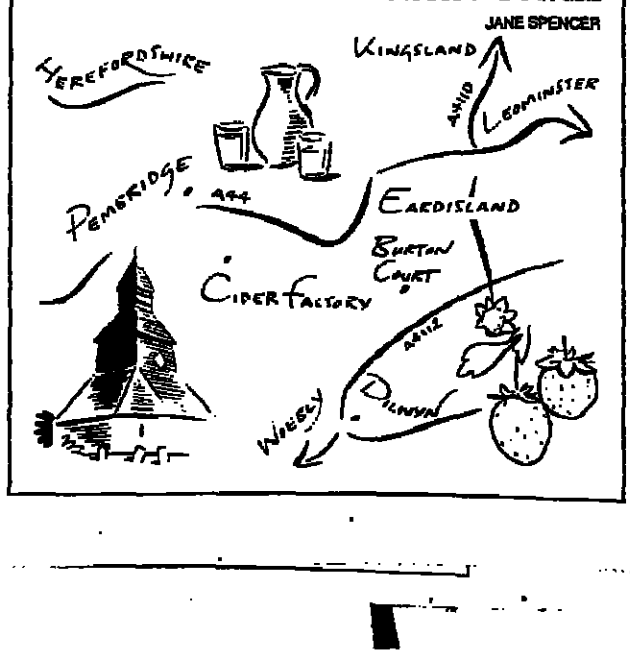
Time to visit: In the summer, when customers spill out into the tiny market square, their plates piled high with food from the busy kitchens of the New Inn. In the winter, log fires in the flag-floored back bar welcome the visitor after a ramble.

Historical interest: Sites around Pembridge are numerous. St Mary's, the village's parish church, is 14th century and has a curious belltower resembling a Japanese pagoda.

Also nearby: A string of other black-and-white villages are dotted between Leominster, the nearest big market town, and *the Welsh border, including Dilwyn, Weobley, Eardisland* and Kingsland. Also Dunkerton's Cider, where local varieties of organically-grown apples and pears are pressed. Burton Court, with its medieval great hall, is two miles away and run by a Mrs Simpson, a noted eccentric.

NICK NUTTALL

JANE SPENCER



'To protect my young son from the evils of Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends, I introduced him to Enid Blyton and … aaargh!'

The horror of holiday reading

LIFE AND SOUL

JANE SHILLING

I am very much afraid that when Alexander goes back to school in September and writes that essay that you always have to do at the beginning of the autumn term on "What I Did On My Holidays", his teachers are going to conclude that I am a tyrant — or he is a hopeless swot. For what we have mainly been Doing On Our Holidays so far is reading. Mountains and mountains of books.

It is all the fault of the weather. The day after we arrived in Devon it began to rain, and since then it has been pouring with a persistence that would be tropical if it were not so very English.

One effect of this is that whenever we think the weather forecast might be coming up on the telly, we all point, like gundogs, *quivering* towards the screen. I think we secretly hope that that nice Mr *Fish might somehow* be able to make it all better. This, however, he shows no *signs of doing. On the contrary, he seems* rather proud of the prodigious wetness lately achieved *in the South West.*

Now, this is all very well, but I have had firmly *fixed in* my mind all *summer* an image of myself draped like a mermaid among the *limpets and bladder*-wrack while Alexander pottered about doing whatever it is small boys do on seaside holidays. All this I had envisaged happening in the *blazing sunshine. I* hadn't planned for anything else.

My parents, however, are made of tougher stuff. Less optimistic and more resourceful than I, they have come equipped with a large selection of contingency plans — and a wide range of protective clothing in which to carry them out. So it is that I find myself trudging along at the rear of a sodden crocodile while my mother points out the beauties of the countryside.

When we have had enough of marching about *in the wet, we go on damp* visits to miniature steam railways. The *South West is riddled with these.* They are run by jovial, pink-cheeked old men *in* peaked caps who bear a sinister resemblance to Benny Hill. On the hard benches *inside the* miniature carriages sit rows of mummies, waiting patiently *while their small* sons engage in complicated train discussions. Thomas the Tank Engine, as *you might expect, fig*ures large in these conversations.

"Did you know," I said to the mummy sitting next to me, as the train chugged round its circuit and our sons compared the size of their Thomas libraries, "that you can buy a book containing *every Thomas story* ever written?" "Oh, *don't*," said this mummy. "What an awful thought."

In fact, we own a copy of this book. It is known in our house as the "Thomas Bible" and has accompanied us to Devon, along with a great many other volumes, since I suffer from an uncontrollable dread of running out of things to read.

Having secured myself against having to fall back for entertainment on the nature notes by local lady *belletrists, with* which the cottage is generously stocked ("The oystercatchers pipe beside the rock pools as they scurry and hunt and, further out to sea, the loan shag still skims the waves…"), I have turned my at*tention to the reform* of Alexander's reading habits. In particular, *I have made a private vow never to* read another story about Thomas and his *friends, whose terrible snobbishness and* vituperation and ill-nature and bullying tendencies have been our nightly companions for almost two and a half years.

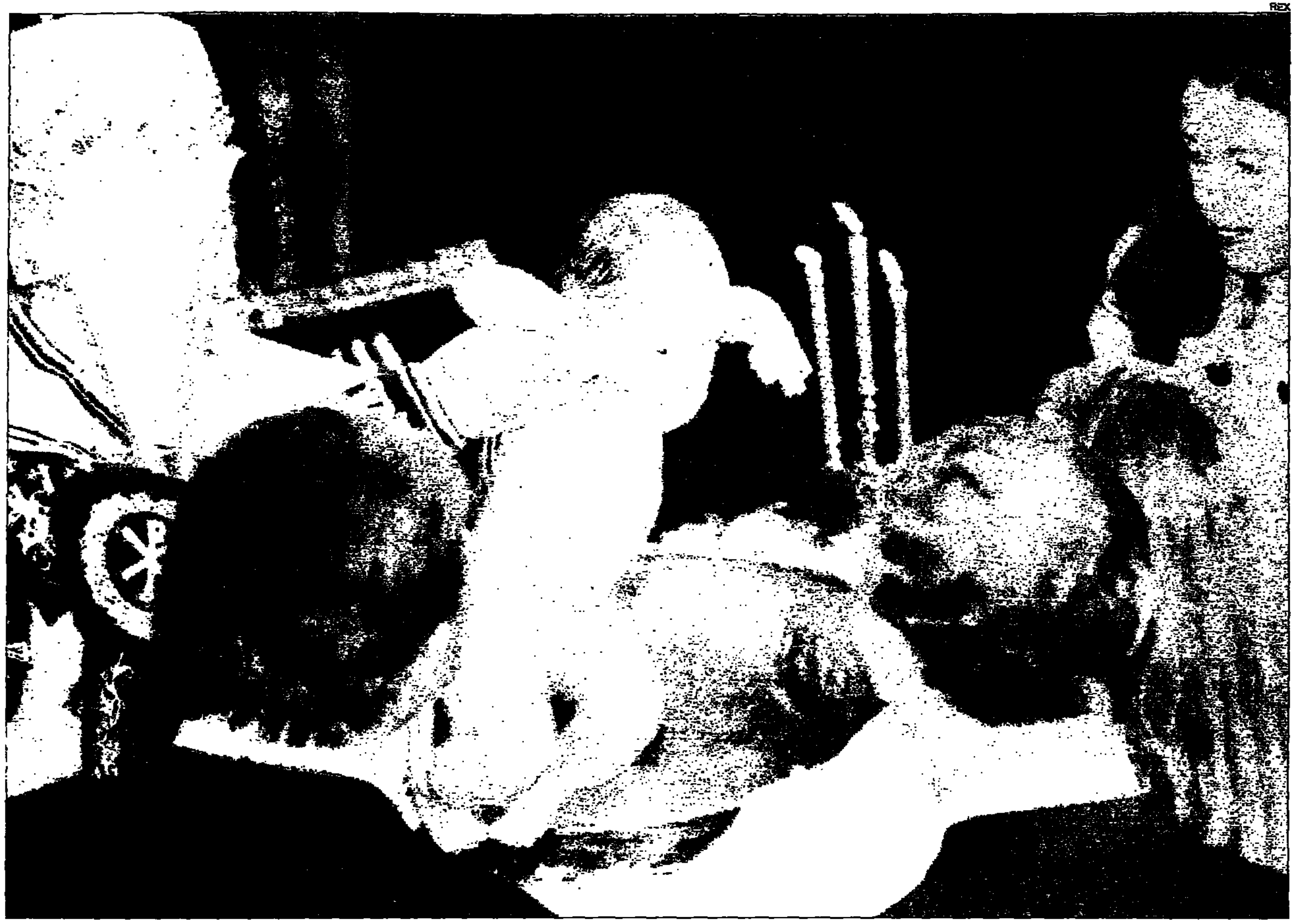
A few weeks ago, a *little pile of Enid* Blyton stories came into the office. *With* half an ear, I had been listening to the recent debate about whether she is A Good Thing. What everyone seemed to say, whether they approved or not, was *that she is irresistible to children.* I had a quick look at *The Caravan Family, The Saucy Jane Family* and the rest. They did not seem irresistible to me. Old fashioned, and rather dull, I thought, but probably harmless.

When we got here, I put the Blyton books by Alexander's bed, hid the Thomas Bible, and waited to see what would happen. A silence, and then the chirping, murmuring noise that is the sound of him reading *to himself*. The chirping went on for a long time, and had begun again when I *got up the next morning*. I prepared to ring Thomas's death knell.

Eventually, after he had *read them all* twice, I thought I might take a closer look at *these magical antidotes to the Rev* W. Awdry, only to find — guess what! — horrors undreamt of on the Island of Sodor. These are books in which, despite some clumsy updating (I wonder very much how the "Italian American" waiter and the "Afro-American" cleaner appeared in the unexpurgated text of *The Queen Elizabeth Family*), shyness, sensitivity and imagination are faults, and anyone displaying *signs of them* must be ruthlessly bullied until they desist. Here, small children are taken to *exotic places* by their parents only to discover that Abroad is Bloody, and Foreigners are Filthy. "Oh, there's always an awful smell in these places," said mummy. "*Look, here is my* bottle of smelling salts. Hold it to your nose."

Dear me. *I wonder what to do now.* I can hardly impose a retrospective ban on my own brilliant innovation. *But, mean*while, here lies my son on the hearth rug absorbing attitudes whose *Philistine self*-confidence and lack of any redeeming doubt or irony will certainly qualify him for a place on the panel of some 21st-century edition of *The Moral Maze*.

Hey ho! Well, as dear old Thomas the Tank Engine was always so fond of saying, it Serves Me Jolly Well Right.



REX

The Prince of Wales (right, with back to camera) at the christening of Princess Maria Olympia, daughter of Crown Prince and Princess Pavlos, at St George's Church, Istanbul

Just give devilishly good presents

There is much more to being a good godparent than being a spiritual guardian for the children but, as **Jill Parkin** discovers, it is still a popular (although expensive) role

The Prince of Wales has 27 of them. Diana, Princess of Wales, *is catching up and* now has 17. With each new *godchild you have to renounce the* Devil and all his works. The children can be very expensive in terms of presents and there is no guarantee of receiving *any thank-you* letters.

Godchildren can bring together the most unlikely couples: *Diane Abbott,* the left-wing Labour MP for Hackney North *and the first black woman* MP, chose the now disgraced right-winger *Jonathan Aitken* as godfather for her son, James. Their friendship developed after the two of them were paired in the Commons.

There have been reports among the status-conscious in Manhattan of one mother who *simply asked her favour*ite writers to be godparents to her children. Their names are said to have appeared on the baptismal registry in *roughly* the same order as the *New York Times* bestseller list.

But whatever the nature of the relationship that leads to godparent*hood, godchildren are generally* with you for life. There are exceptions, *however. Two years ago,* Lord Glenconner's daughter-in-law, Tessa Tennant, announced that she was sacking her son Euan's godfather, the *political lobbyist* Andrew Gifford, from the role. They had fallen out over a proposed super-quarry in the Western Isles.

But de-godparenting is a drastic step — the two of them still aren't speaking — and it is generally acknowledged that there is no divorce for those joined at the font. Curiously, for a spiritual job description offers of godparenthood are often made on the basis of wealth and position. "I was amazed to be asked," said a not *particularly rich friend after becom*ing a godmother for the fourth time, "*because her close pal has a title.*"

Social or spiritual, what do godparents actually do? *Thelma Hill*, who lives near Glastonbury in Somerset and is the central marketing co-ordinator *for* the Mothers' Union, is emphatically in the spiritual camp and does a lot.

"I was pleased to be asked and I've had a lot out of it more than I have given. It has always been an active relationship. My godson Peter's father is a canon, so Christian standards at his home were paramount. We all went to church together and my husband and I spent Christmas at the rectory with Peter's family."

She recommends a sense of humour to any godparent — one year she remembers receiving a beautifully wrapped Christmas present, which turned out to be a huge plastic spider.

"We have no children of our own," she adds, "and godchildren have enriched my life. My husband and I also have several we regard as godchildren."

Peter Allton is a chiropodist, married with four children, whom Mrs Hill considers her god-grandchildren. As a child he had lots of people to meet his spiritual needs: one of his godfathers is an archdeacon who specialised in religious gifts, such as prayer books or a book of texts for each day of the year.

"Thelma definitely had a Christian input, both by example and when we talked," he says. "I remember her saying I was welcome to stay with her and bring a girlfriend but we mustn't expect to share a room. Even my father eventually gave up on that one.

"It was, and still is, a valuable relationship. She was never likely to sit down and give me a Christian lesson. It was always by example and a comment here or there. I had no aunts and uncles and I think we filled family gaps for each other in a rewarding way. We've just had our four children christened all together and have chosen people we think will set them a good Christian example, and have fun with them."

There are a lot of godparents around. There may be families where grandparents are disappointed when their grandchildren are not christened, but christening is still popular.

The Church of England says that although numbers are dropping one in four babies is christened (about 157,000 a year). The Roman Catholic Church says its baptism rate is steady, at between 70,000 to 80,000 a year since 1973.

"I have no problems renouncing the Devil and all his works," says Helen Whitaker, a 57-year-old godmother to four children aged 11, nine, five and four. "And as regards keeping the faith, I'm happy to go along with the parents' attitude. It's interesting, though, that none of the vicars concerned asked me whether I had been christened. I haven't. I don't go to church either."

To be a godparent (a child usually has two of its own sex and one of the other in the Church of England) you must have been christened. Technically, confirmation is required as well, though some vicars waive that rule. In the baptism service, you repent your sins or renounce the Devil, depending on the prayer book used, and make promises on behalf of the child to follow Christ.

If you have any sense, you buy a birthday book and enter your godchildren's names so there is no forgetfulness at present-giving times. "Presents are a problem. I take a lot of time over choosing, or sometimes making, them. And it's galling when you give a present and get no response. You have to resort to asking whether the parcel arrived," says Miss Whitaker, who works for a London auction house.

"If you don't have children of your own, you're more likely to be repeatedly chosen as a godparent, perhaps because people think you have time, or money, to spare. The worst thing is when you realise that you prefer your godchild's sibling to your godchild. I tell myself it's probably just that the godchild is going through an objectionable phase."

Jeremy Turner is a 20-year-old *psychology student with two elder* brothers — and a slight grudge. He *smiles when he says it, but it is* obvious that as a child he felt badly done by at birthdays and Christmas.

"Basically, my big brothers had the cream of the godparents," he says. "By the time my parents chose godparents for me they were scraping the bottom of the address book, socially speaking. My godmother was great, but hadn't any money. My godfathers faded out of the picture early on. My brothers always had more presents, bigger presents and better invitations. *And no, their* godparents didn't believe in buying *for the siblings.*"

But, as Peter Allton could tell him, *it is not* about presents. And a boy can have too many prayer books.

Jonathan Aitken is godfather to Diane Abbott's son, James

THE ROYALS AND THEIR **GODCHILDREN**

Diana, Princess of Wales with Lady Mary Wellesley

THE QUEEN: 30 godchildren, including *Lord Porchester*, heir to her racing manager, the Earl of Carnarvon. The 11th Duke of Northumberland, who died of kidney failure, aged 42 in 1995, was also her godchild.

PRINCE OF WALES: 27 godchildren. Camilla Parker-Bowles's son, Tom, and Lady Tryon's son, Charles, are among them, along with Marina Mowatt, the daughter of Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy, and a sprinkling of descendants from his *mentor*, Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES: 17 godchildren. An eclectic bunch ranging from Lady Mary Wellesley, daughter of the Marquess of Douro, through to the children of European royalty (Prince Philippos, son of King Constantine of the Hellenes) to the children of Sir David Frost, Dominic Lawson and friends such as Carolyn Bartholomew.

PRINCESS ROYAL: ten godchildren. PRINCE ANDREW: eight. PRINCE EDWARD: seven. The DUCHESS OF YORK is said to have 50.

A spiritual taste of the Last Supper

Ruth Gledhill gives up her lunch to feast on the remarkable story of Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece

SPOTLIT from above, his white hair was a halo of light atop a boyish face, his dog collar gleamed white amid the encircling gloom. The rest of him, clothed in black and grey, disappeared into the darkness around him, a darkness relieved in the foreground by the muted gold light drifting down on to a "congregation" of nearly 300, *and behind him by the most* stunning "reredos" that any *cleric could wish for: an image* of Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper. The Rev Tom Devon*shire Jones, at the lectern, *looked as if he had stepped out* of one of the Renaissance paintings the Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery was built to house.

Technically, this was not a service or an act of worship, although it felt like one. Mr Devonshire Jones, an Oxford Classics graduate and vicar of St Mark's, Regent's Park, London, founded the Art and Christianity Enquiry Trust in 1994 in an attempt to bring together the three separate disciplines of the visual arts, church and theology.

The trust does not confine its activities to the gallery. There *has been an evensong* at Westminster Abbey on the *theme of God and the artist*, where curators from the Nat*ional and Tate galleries* read the lessons and the abbey sacrist wrote a *special litany*, plus regular meetings, lectures and exhibitions, as well as visits to sites of recent art in places of worship.

The appeal of such an approach can be witnessed in the large numbers, in the hundreds, attending the "art and theology" study days.

Da Vinci's *Last Supper* is such an enduring image, one which has been copied and developed by countless artists, including Andy Warhol, in the centuries since Leonardo, that it came as a shock to many to learn of the miracles by which it has survived.

Mr Devonshire Jones's lecture was accompanied by gasps and groans of dismay as he chronicled the extraordinary history of this mural on the wall of a convent refectory room in Milan. Early on, the feet of Christ were obliterated by a doorway inserted into the wall. Over the centuries, restorers have worked it, and then more recent restorers have attempted to remove the *work of their predecessors.*

Rising damp has led to the *decay and loss of the paint* surface. In 1796, Napoleon's *advancing troops ignored or*ders to protect the convent and *used it as a stable*. And in the last war the building was *reduced to rubble*, with *The Last Supper* barely surviving on a standing wall and protected from wind and rain by no more than sandbags.

MANY reproductions today fail to take into account the original setting of the masterpiece. "The chummy greetings card on sale at your local Post Office has become confused beyond recognition, the disciples somehow afloat in their own chalice," Mr Devonshire Jones said.

He analysed the original. "*Leonardo created a vision of* Christ which, in beauty, serenity, *sensitiveness, meaning* and gesture, strikes through its damaged surface to become the unforgettable image." Around this calm centre, he has, with remarkable psychological understanding, depicted "the confusion, distress, incomprehension, revulsion, disbelief of the 12 disciples".

I left the theatre with a better understanding, not only of the painting but of Christian theology. There had been no time for me to have lunch that day but, somehow, I was no longer hungry.

● *Art and Christianity Enquiry Trust, 4 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7TX (0171-485 3077).*

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five-star guide* ★

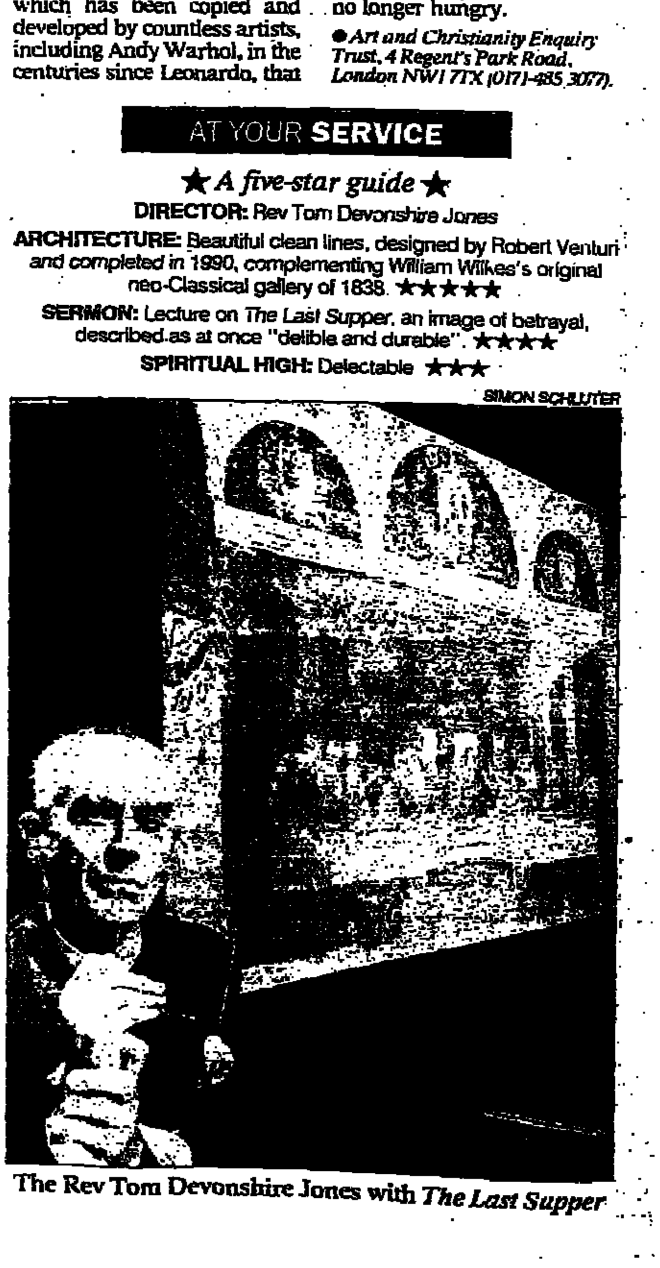
DIRECTOR: Rev Tom Devonshire Jones

ARCHITECTURE: Beautiful clean lines, designed by Robert Venturi and completed in 1990, complementing William Wilkes's original neo-Classical gallery of 1838. ★★★★★

SERMON: Lecture on *The Last Supper*, an image of betrayal, described as at once "delible and durable". ★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Delectable ★★★

SIMON SCHLUTER



The Rev Tom Devonshire Jones with *The Last Supper*

THE TIMES

CAR 97

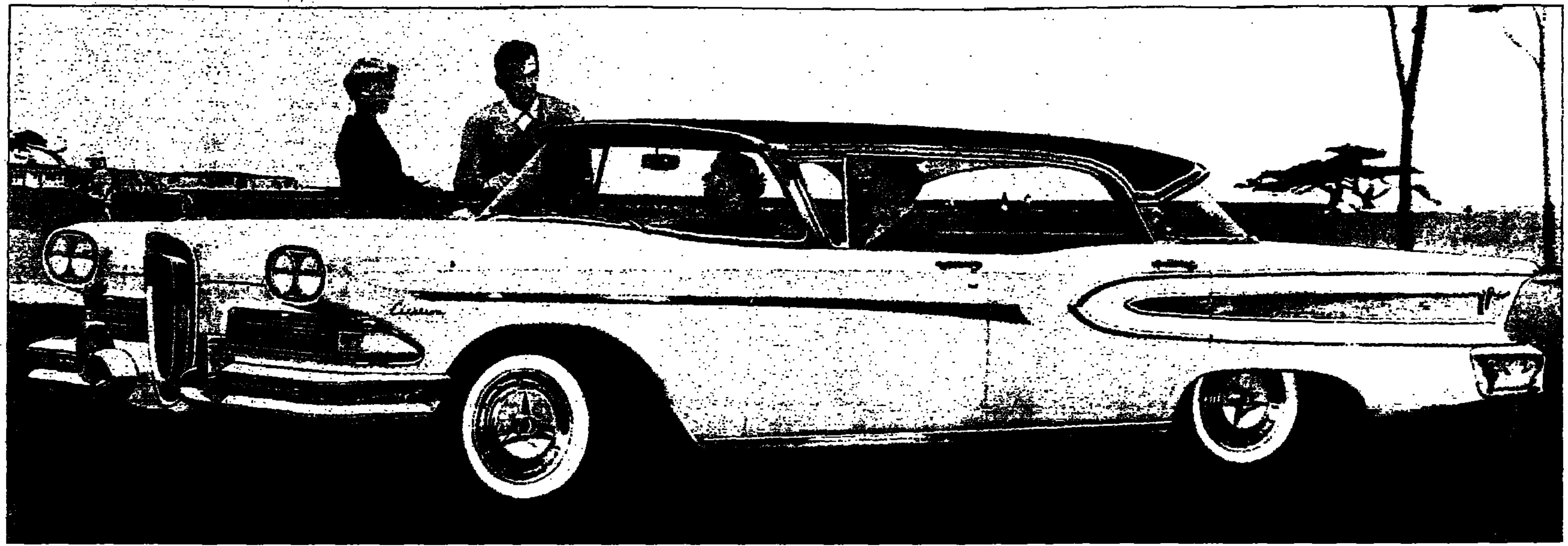
SATURDAY AUGUST 9 1997

Save your marriage: win an upside down map

Page 8

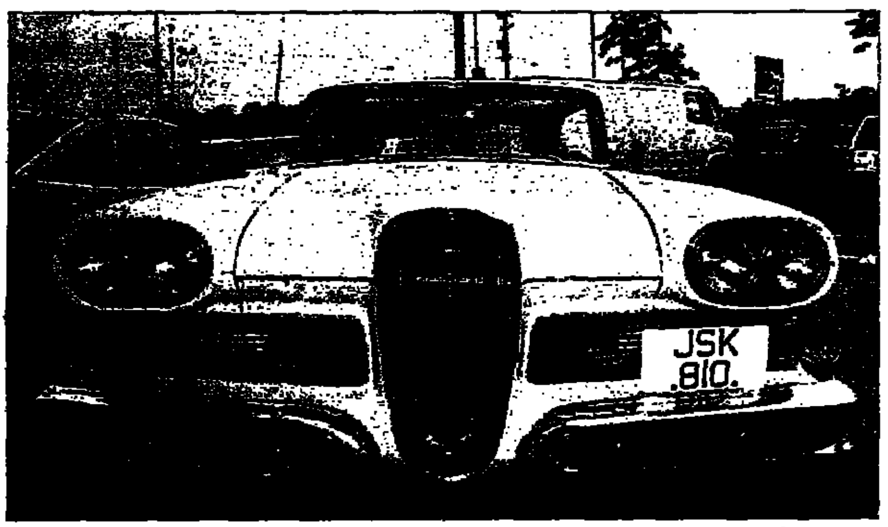
How Bugs Bunny paid for cars worth $1 million

Page 12

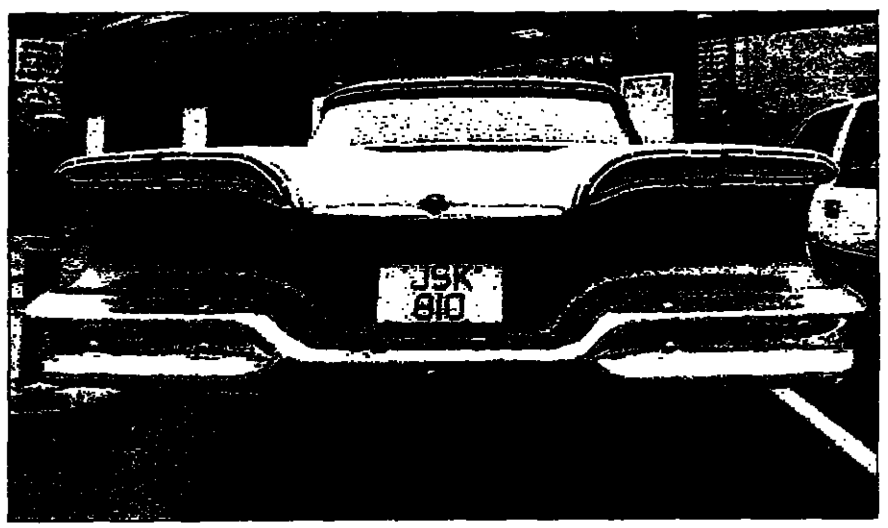


Tease that failed to please: Ford built up the Edsel's launch by advertising it covered with a tarpaulin. But when it was unveiled, the design only provoked disappointment: the public had been led to expect something outrageous

The world's worst car?

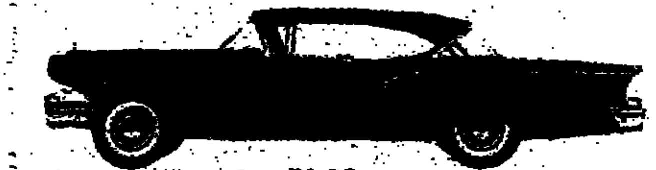


Grilled to imperfection: vertical radiator opening prompted a welter of abuse



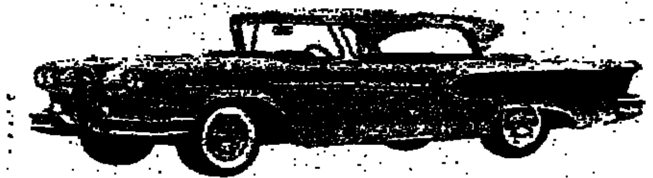
Edsel's tail end fared no better. Some thought it an insult to the cars behind

Edsel Pacer

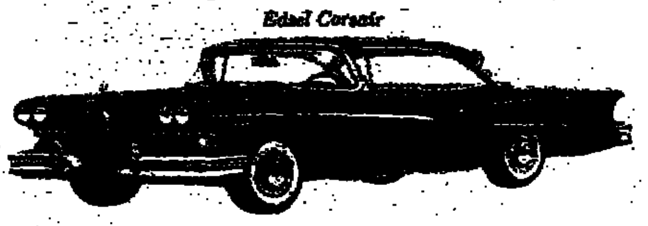


Edsel Ranger

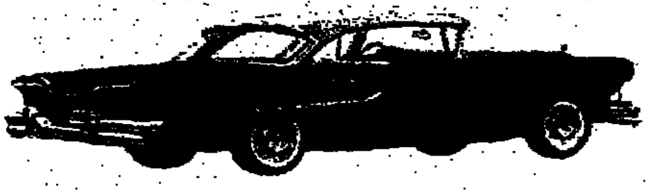
Edsel Citation



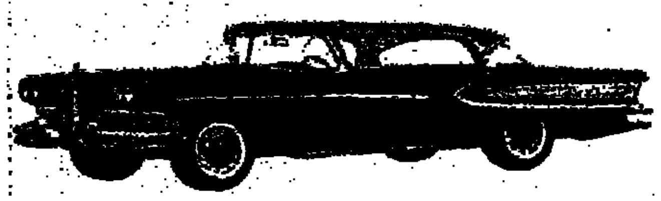
Edsel Corsair



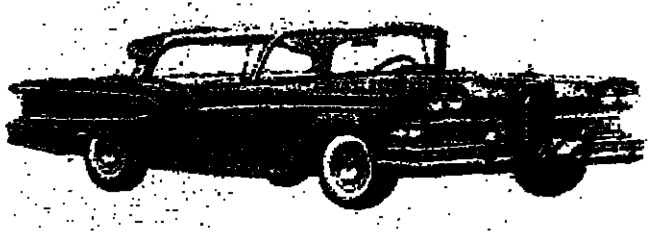
Edsel Pacer



Edsel Ranger



Edsel Citation



Edsel Corsair

Ford's Edsel is reputed to be the turkey of turkeys. **Guy Walters** is kind to the infamous flop on its 40th anniversary

Ford's *Edsel* is to cars what *Waterworld* is to films — showing how hype can backfire. Any book in the "world's greatest failures" genre will contain at least one chapter on the car that celebrates its 40th birthday this year. The Edsel lost Ford between $250 million and $350 *million at a time when* a good car would sell for $2,500. As a result, the Edsel is acclaimed as the worst car ever built.

However, on its ruby anniversary, let us be kind to the Edsel. Let those who damn it too easily take a Fiat 127 or a 1973 Honda Civic for a spin, or give their children a Ford Pinto, the car that had a tendency to explode when hit from behind. For not only is the Edsel great fun to drive, but also it looks good. It is neither significantly worse nor better than any other car of its period and ilk.

But first the styling. The biggest complaint about the Edsel was the shape of the grille. People compared it to a nestling bird gaping wide for a worm, Sherlock Holmes's mouth between puffs on his pipe, a *horsecollar*, a lavatory seat, and, horror of horrors, part of the female anatomy.

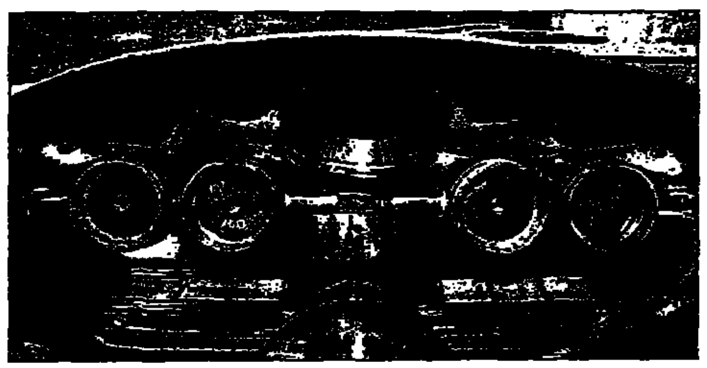
In a land of horizontal grilles, late-1950s Americans were not ready for a perpendicular shift. Billy-Bob and Mary-Lou reacted to it in the same way as we have to Ford's recent frog-eyed Scorpio — a little too outré, a bit too self-consciously *designed*. Comedians such as Bob Hope vilified the grille, and the Edsel started to earn its reputation as a not-to-be-seen-in dud. Today, the grille hardly seems worth *mentioning* — *it* is merely another piece of futuristic 1950s design.

Eyebrows were also raised at the Edsel's rear. The high tail-lights were large and shaped like gulls' wings — some thought that the Edsel was grimacing at the cars it had passed. But, more importantly, the lights were extremely visible, and thus an excellent safety feature.

But an odd-shaped grille and some disliked tail-lights are hardly enough to qualify a car as the world's worst. Gavin Garrow, who is head of the British chapter of the Edsel Owners' Club, says that Americans reacted badly to the car because they had expected so much more. "Much of the Edsel's launch featured the Edsel covered by a tarpaulin as part of a teaser campaign," he says.

But when the covers came off, to reveal a perfectly decent car, many were disappointed. "People expected a Buck Rogers-style spaceship on wheels," says Garrow.

The Edsel may not have looked like a spaceship, but, for a late-1950s car, it certainly performed like one. *Popular Science* reported in September 1957 that the Edsel had, "More engine power than the average motorist *will know what to* do with… gadgets beyond a gadgeteer's dreams of glory… *takes off like a gazelle one jump* ahead of a drooling lion… is cat-footed, solid on the straightaway, *and as upright as an archbishop on* the hard turns."



Today, the dashboard looks like something from *Dan Dare*

The public liked the car too. In 1958, *Popular Mechanics* magazine asked 1,000 Edsel owners their opinion. Typical comments included, "I like the clean cut of the Edsel, it really looks sharp… I can say they took the driver into consideration in designing this car… I like its quick getaway, it does 120mph easily… this is a truly smooth-riding car — my wife even put polish on her nails in the back seat with no smears."

Forty years later, all this praise still holds. This week, I took a 1958 Edsel Pacer out for a drive through south London, and it was a joy. The acceleration *was* impressive *for* a car that weighs well over 1½ tons. A three-point turn was completed *without any difficulty, and the* steering is light enough to palm the car round corners with ease.

The *ride is smooth*, the seats comfortable, the instruments beautifully presented and unfussy, and — this is the clincher — a mere £5,000 from a company called Dream Cars in South London. Yes, the fuel consumption is in the low-teens per gallon, but then this car was built in oil-rich America. As Dream Cars' Milton Homan says, "If you turned up with this at a classic car show you certainly

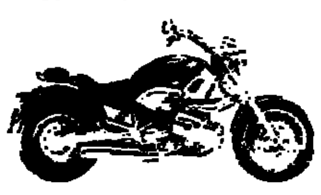
Continued on page 2

INSIDE TODAY

They scoot, they score: Chelsea players have joined the new scooter craze, and so can you – we're giving seven away

NEXT WEEK

To top that, our special motorcycle month prize is the flashiest superbike ever to hit the road - the new BMW R1200C *Cruiser*



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T9/B MPV

The wrong-headed government crusade against tax dodgers won't raise any real cash — but it could end up wrecking an innocent person's vehicle

Road-fund war a crushing mistake

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

The vehicle excise duty, which most of us know as road tax, is a daft and expensive way of raising money. It should have been abolished years ago. But now some sort of Rambo complex has overtaken the Government, which this week launched a campaign to catch the minority who evade the tax altogether. What a waste of time.

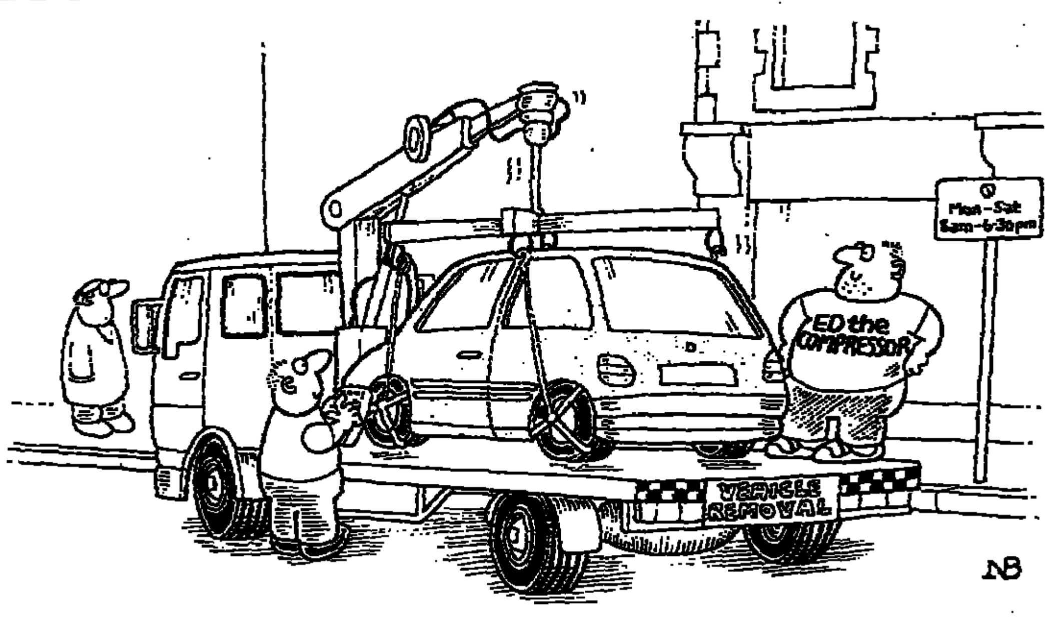
This is one of those "initatives" that comes along every August. Not much happening, politicians all gone to Tuscany, better do something to show that Whitehall is still in business. Whenever action is taken against road tax dodgers, the grand-sounding figure of £175 million is wheeled out, which is what these parasites cost the economy every year.

You and I might well be able to enjoy the life of Riley on £175 million, but it is in fact a trivial sum, enough to run the National Health Service for less than two days. Still, every penny counts, so no one who is opposed to wasting money could object to the Government going after road tax evaders. But is this the way? Starting in London this month, and in the rest of the country next year, cars with no tax will be clamped initially, then towed away and, if not claimed and taxed after five weeks, they will be crushed or sold.

Most of the people who will be caught are not worth our sympathy. They are persistent offenders and that is why the motoring organisations have welcomed the government plan.

Thus there was not a whimper of discontent when the plan was announced on Tuesday, a launch involving the crushing of an elderly Ford Sierra. There will be a poster campaign using a crushed car and the caption, "Do you feel lucky, Dodger?" It all sounds terribly macho. And wrong.

Road tax dodgers may not deserve sympathy, although I suspect some people, especially students and pensioners, find the ever-rising sum for road tax hard to raise (which is why I favour having the tax subsumed into petrol prices: one can always save money by not driving). Whatever the reason for not paying the tax, I fail to see how the Government can justify taking away a car and turning it into "a lump of metal four feet square", as *The Times* reported on Tuesday.



A pilot scheme in five London boroughs last year raised £6 for every £1 spent on chasing offenders, so a considerable number of cars must have been seized and sold. Clearly many of the seized vehicles disappeared from the mainstream long ago and have been stolen and sold on so many times that we need not waste sympathy on the nominal owner.

This does not alter the fact that mistakes are bound to happen. Baroness Hayman, the roads minister, said this week that "law-abiding motorists have nothing to fear", but it cannot be long before some chap returns from three months in Tuscany to find that his precious BMW has been turned into 50,000 ashtrays or sold at auction to Del Boy.

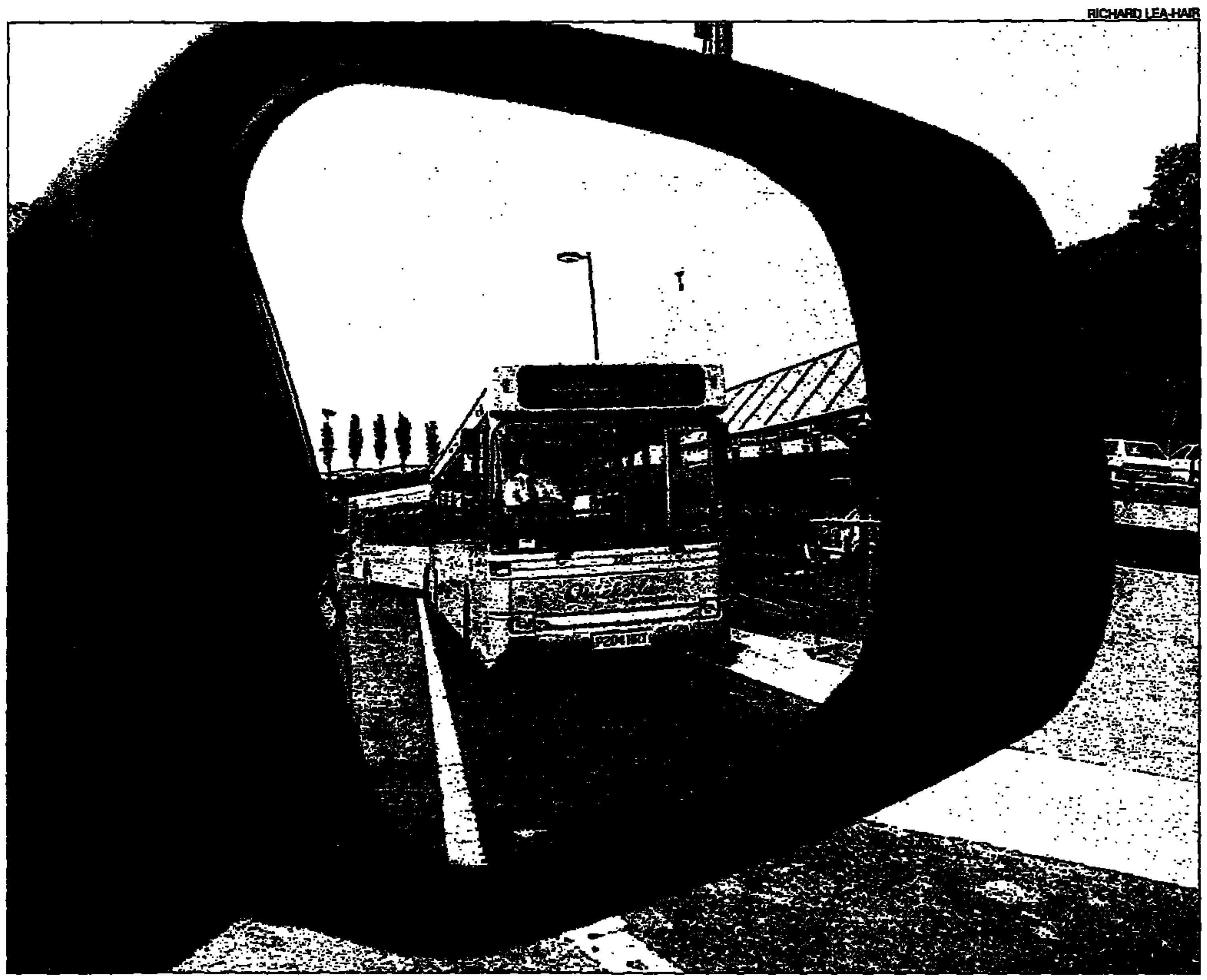
Lawyers are in for a field day when that happens, and although I am all for anything that provides newspapers with entertaining stories (Nun's car crushed while she had audience with Queen), I would have thought that this scheme was fraught with difficulties in return for not very much in the way of revenue.

And where will the money go? Why, to the dear old Treasury of course. A private firm has been hired to comb the streets for offenders and the money raised will be sent directly to the Treasury. Therefore, as with all other moneys raised from the motorist, this will disappear into a black hole rather than being spent on transport.

Nor will I be surprised if the roadsides start filling up with old bangers. After all, if a car worth only a few hundred pounds needs taxing, why not park it at the side of the road and walk away? Perhaps the car crushers, like the bus operators, should publish a timetable and a route, so that we know where to find them. Room for one more inside?

Green road tolls for Leicester cars

Men are proving reluctant to join a new clean-air project, **Eve-Ann Prentice** reports



RICHARD LEA-HAIR

Park-and-ride uses special buses with customer-friendly drivers

Leicester — which this week began charging drivers who take their cars into the city centre — seems an unlikely place for such a radical attempt to ease traffic jams.

Step from the train (it seems the most prudent way to arrive) and you feel you have walked into an architect's drawing of an urban Shangri-La. Pristine, uncluttered pavements dotted with unobtrusive wooden signposts direct pedestrians to key points in the city, indicating that motorised traffic is not king here. Glaringly new red and yellow paint marks out cycleways and bus routes.

Yet it is precisely because Leicester prides itself on its green credentials that the city council has become the first in the country to begin charging motorists for the privilege of driving into town, in an eight-month experiment being closely watched by the Government.

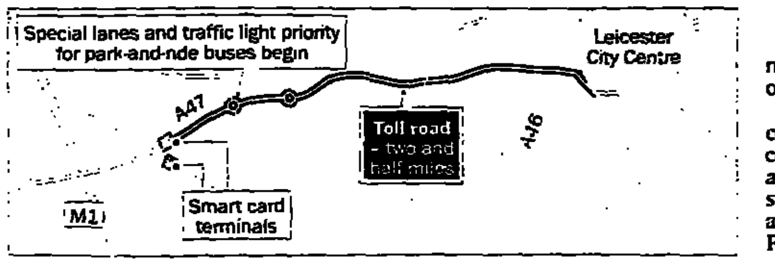
The main aim of the trial is to discover how much people will pay before deciding enough is enough and they abandon their cars and travel to work by public transport.

So far, the only people paying the charges — ranging from £2 to £10 depending on pollution and traffic levels — are volunteers picked from all sections of Leicester society. About 20 this week began using the two-and-a-half-mile toll road leading from near the junction with the M1 into the city centre, while another 80 will join the experiment in the next week or two.

The trial, backed by the Transport Department and the European Commission, will cost £2.5 million — £1 million per mile.

The volunteers have been given electronic charge cards which are automatically debited every time they pass special beacons on the toll road. The cards have been credited with funds by the council, but they are allowed to keep some of the money they save if they opt instead to use a new park-and-ride bus into town.

Four new park-and-ride buses, which have special lanes and will soon be given priority at traffic lights along the toll route, have been bought for £80,000 each and the drivers have been given special "customer care" instruction in an attempt to make the buses more attractive to drivers unaccustomed to the cut and thrust of public transport.


Special lanes and traffic light priority for park-and-ride buses begin
Leicester City Centre
A47
A46
Toll road – two and half miles
M1
Smart card terminals

The bus takes about ten minutes into town from the outskirts, compared with 20-45 minutes for most rush-hour cars. The city was not able to produce much of a rush hour this week because school holidays have drastically cut the traffic. The park-and-ride return fare is £1.50, compared with around £4 a day for a car park place in the centre.

Eddie Tyrer, coordinator of the Leicester Environmental Road Tolling Scheme, affectionately shortened to Lerts, says: "The traffic situation in Leicester and elsewhere will get worse no matter what we do, but we want to stop it getting as bad as it could if we did nothing. What we are doing is not anti-car. We are seeking a shift, a change in attitude."

Equipment for the experiment has come from Trondheim in Norway, where similar toll roads have been in operation for eight years.

Is the Leicester scheme likely to grow from the experimental stage to long-term everyday use? Two hurdles may stand in its way: money and a male reluctance to prise their fingers off the steering wheel.

The car park at the park-and-ride centre cost £1 million — the city council already owned the land, and an encampment of gipsies lost their site. A similar park-and-ride centre at another key entry point to the city, at Fosse Park, would cost £5 million.

There are also signs that big retail traders are less than happy about the prospect of cars being persuaded away from the city centre. Mr Tyrer says, however, that a free-flowing and cleaner city is in everyone's interest.

The reluctance of men to leave their cars was meanwhile becoming evident on the third day of the toll experiment. Far more women than men have been using the park-and-ride service, according to the bus drivers and Mr Tyrer, and the only male to be seen on board one of the city-bound buses admitted that he would far rather have been at the wheel of his car, and was only using the bus to please his girlfriend sitting beside him.

Women are more enthusiastic about the bus. "I was a bit sceptical at first because I like having my stereo and my comfort on the way to work," says Elaine Keen. "But having used the bus I am very pleased; there is no road rage, no stopping and starting in traffic and no parking problems. And it takes me ten minutes instead of three-quarters of an hour."

David Wright, the city council's team leader for system support projects and technical wizard behind the new scheme is, meanwhile, not leaving his car in the garage. "I need a car for work, sometimes at short notice," he says.

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**
A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic.
A406 Angel Edmonton. Major works at the A1010 Fore Street.
A113 Chigwell Road, Woodford Green: single alternate traffic between Manor Road and Gaynes Hill Road.
A3212 Grosvenor Road. Contraflow betweeen Claverton Street and Lupus Street.
A237 Manor Road, Wallington: single alternate traffic at the junction with Melbourne Road.
A1209 Bethnal Green Road. Long-term roadworks between Vallance Road and Cambridge Heath Road.
A312 Faggs Road, Feltham. Carriageway reduced to one lane each way due to long term bridge maintenance at Faggs Bridge, north of Staines Road, between 6am and 5pm.

● **SOUTH-EAST**
A34 Berkshire. Contraflow and narrow lanes with 40mph limit between M4 junction 13 and Newbury.
A4 Padworth, Berkshire. Temporary lights at junction with A340.
M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with a contraflow between junctions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wycombe East).
A3 Hampshire. Longmoor Junction, Greatham. Carriageway reduced to one lane northbound between Ham Barn Roundabout and Longmoor, southbound between Griggs Green and Longmoor.
A41 Watford. Eastbound lane closure on North Western Avenue from Hunton Bridge roundabout to Leavesdon Green Interchange.
A414 Hertfordshire. Roadworks on St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead.
M2 Rochester, Kent. Roadworks with various lane closures.
M40 Oxfordshire. Resurfacing work between Watlington and Oxford. Drivers heading to junction 8 of the M40 from Oxford are advised to use the A40 and A418.
M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and A3.
A24 Findon Bypass. Lane closed northbound between Quadrangle and Long Furlong.

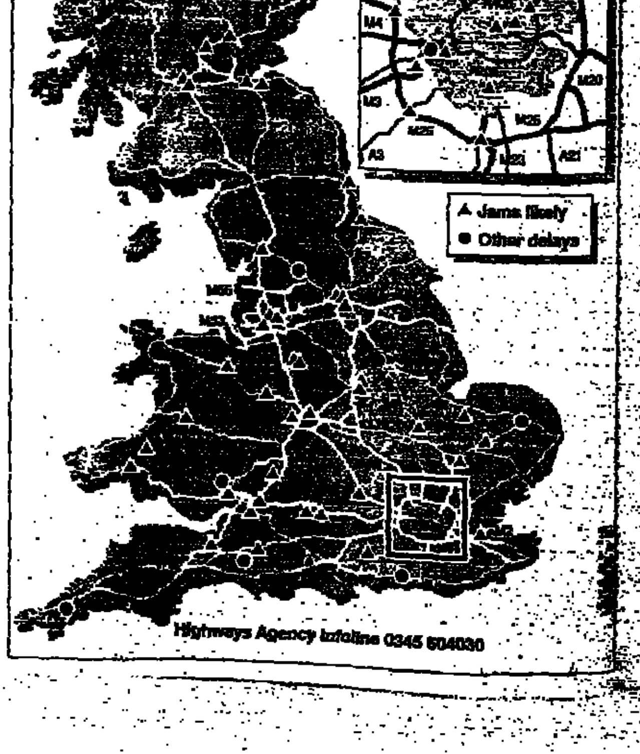
● **SOUTH-WEST**
A38 Old Bedminster Bridge. Lane closures on Bedminster roundabout.
M5 Bristol. Contraflow across Avonmouth bridge.
A432 Downend Road Bristol. Temporary lights at junction with Croomes Hill and Shrubbery Road.
A390 Cornwall. Lane restrictions in centre of Truro at the Trafalgar roundabout.
A417 Maisemore Bridge, Gloucestershire. Temporary lights during bridge work.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**
A1 between Alconbury Hill and Alwalton, Cambridgeshire. Construction work with lane closures, contraflow and 50mph limit.
A1303 Cambridgeshire. Lane closed and traffic controls on Newmarket Road and Airport way.
A1074 Norwich. Narrow lanes eastbound between Larkman Lane and Sweet Briar Road roundabout.
A52 Beeston, Nottinghamshire. Major roadworks on Derby Road.
A6 Leicestershire. Roadworks between M1 junction 24 and Sawley Island.
M54 Shropshire. Contraflow with westbound traffic on the shoulder. Eastbound on to lanes 1 and 2 of westbound carriageway.
A50 Stoke on Trent: major roadworks in the Meir area at junction with A520.
M6 Staffordshire. Contraflow between junctions 14 and 15.
A1101 Mildenhall. Closed at the Kingsway between Lark Road and Kings Street.

● **NORTH**
A579 Warrington. Winwick link road closed.
M6 Cumbria. One lane closed both ways between junctions 36 and 37.
A58 Manchester. Closed southbound on Park Road between A6 and Cricketers Way, and between the Chequerbent Roundabout and Wade Lane.
A19 between Thornaby-on-Tees and Billingham, Cleveland. Major roadworks with two lanes each way and 50mph limit.
M1 South Yorkshire. 30mph limit at junction 47. Delays on M1, M621 and A653.
A134 Tyne and Wear. contraflow on Felling bypass.
M1 West Yorkshire, junctions 43 to 42 Stourton to Lofthouse junction. Contraflow and 50mph limit.

● **WALES**
A484 Carmarthenshire. Major roadworks on Francis Well in Tenerdy.
A449 Monmouthsire. Long delays between Usk junction and the M4 junction 24 at Newport.
A472 Torfaen. Contraflow at Pontypool.
A485 Carmarthenshire. Temporary lights at Duar Villa, Llanybyther.

● **SCOTLAND**
M9 Edinburgh. Long-term roadworks and restrictions on Newbridge roundabout.
A720 Edinburgh city bypass. Contraflow between Lothianburn and Dreghorn.
M90 Friarton Bridge, Perth and Kinross. Contraflow.



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Contined from page 1

would not get booed away." So what was the problem? Why the endless abuse?

The styling was far from dreadful. The performance was more than competent. It was user-friendly. Some models even had an advanced Teletouch Drive that changed gears in the automatic box electronically. The Edsel may have suffered from an ill-conceived launch, but that doth not a turkey make.

According to both Garrow and Homan, the real problem was marketing — there was simply no gap in the market for a car like the Edsel.

"It was the right car at the wrong time," says Mr Garrow. "Ford were trying to produce a stepping-stone between the low end of the market — such as the Mercury — and the top end — such as the Lincoln. But in the middle, where the Edsel was aimed, there was already a lot of competition, such as Dodge, Pontiac and Oldsmobile.

"Nobody was that interested in the Edsel when they realised it simply wasn't that special." Mr Homan puts the problem into a modern context: "It was a bit like being promised an Escort Ghia and being given an Escort 1300. The Edsel was simply not different enough." he says.

To be harsh, the Edsel should never have been made. It was commercially unnecessary, but as a piece of automotive machinery it should be allowed to hold its head up higher than most. Do you really want to know what the Edsel is? It's fine, just fine.

Dream Cars, 8-10 Ingate Place, London SW8 3NS 0171-627 5775
Gavin Garrow, Edsel Owners' Club, 01932 848532
Internet: http://decker.colorado.edu/Fasick/Edsel/

FORD EDSEL

Engine: 6½-litre V8.
Top Speed: 125mph.
Equipment: Power steering, Teletouch gearchange, self-adjusting brakes, air conditioning, electric windows, speed alarm, panel-mounted compass, electric seats.

Now that *CAR 97* has debunked the myth that the Edsel is the world's worst car, we are inviting readers to nominate an alternative. How about the Bond Bug? Or the *Morris Marina*? *Anyone for* the Triumph TR7? Readers should send in no more than 250 words to: *The World's Worst Car, CAR 97, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN.* All published entries will receive a suitably dreadful prize.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

During a demonstration for Princess Margaret at the 1950 Motor Show, Triumph chairman Sir John Black pulled the wrong switch and incinerated his TRX prototype...
Preston Tucker leased the worlds biggest factory under one roof, but built fewer than 50 cars before going under...
The original TVR was marketed in America as the Jomar Mk.2
Guy Ligier is the only Rugby international to have built and raced his own car.

BRITISH CARS MOST SECURE

■ BRITISH cars dominated the first security league table drawn up by *What Car?* magazine this week. The Jaguar XK8 proved to be the most thief-resistant motor on the road, sharing top spot with the Range Rover 4.0 SE.

Using a team of specialists from the Master Locksmiths' Association, the magazine tested 72 cars to see if they would meet Home Office guidelines: that a thief should be unable to enter a fully locked car within two minutes and should be unable to drive away (without the key) for a further five minutes.

Only eight cars passed both tests. BMW's M3 Evolution Coupé and 735i tied for third place and the Audi A6 was fifth, equal with Ford's Fiesta 1.25 Ghia — proving top security is not only for upmarket cars. The Jaguar XJ6 and Volkswagen Passat also passed both tests. The Renault Clio 1.4 RT came last.

صحف من الخارج

MOTORCYCLING MONTH: MAKING THE BIG TRIPS WITH BRITAIN'S LATEST PASSION

On tour with the eccentrics

America and Italy are invading each other's traditional niches: **John Naish** rides two of the motorcycle market's most esoteric mile-eating machines

Summertime, and a motorcyclist's thoughts turn to making that big trip, riding into distant sunsets with troubles left far behind. But while many epic rides might only end at the nearest seaside café, the motorcycle touring market is in rude health: modern suspension and tyres have transformed large motorcycles from lumbering behemoths into machines that can both do serious distances and handle bends almost as slickly as their sportsbike cousins.

Few tourers get more esoteric than the two I rode the length and breadth of England — Moto Guzzi's 1,100cc California and the newly launched Buell S3T Thunderbolt.

Guzzi's California has been around in various guises for more than 20 years, with each incarnation emerging from the Italian factory bigger, flashier and ever more high-tech.

The bike's name and cruiser styling may owe their allegiance to the Land of the Free, but the motor is as Latin as the Coliseum — and in motorcyling terms just as ancient. It's a powerplant that stamps its presence as soon as you heft the bike off its stand and fire the electric start. Wumph, the whole machine pulls over to one side as engine torque twists the bike on its axis.

But the motor doesn't have a monopoly on first impressions. The styling is straight out of the Harley-Davidson school of in-your-face custom and chrome. Many bikers love machines that shout, "Hey, look over here, impressive motorcycle!". Others, like me, consider it the two-wheel equivalent of a stick-on hairy chest. Crowds of passers-by loved it, though.

Instantly, you know you are on one big lump of bike. You sit in the bike rather than on it, sinking into the stepped seat, your hands stretching up to the raised bars. And there's no itty-bitty footpegs either — the California has footboards to reinforce that cruisin' image.

Thankfully, this is not just a big old bike with a cosmetics-first philosophy. It's much more than a pretty face.

That old motor comes with a bag of modern tricks, not least a fuel-injection that ensures reliable, chokeless starting and delivers deep, wide power that makes for serious mile-eating ability. At motorway and *autobahn* speeds, simply stick it in top gear and the motor will go from 60 to over the ton at the twist of the throttle and sit happily at any speed between. The massive screen keeps the wind off the rider's chest, staving off the fatigue that accompanies long rides.

For all that heavy metal and chrome, the bike corners in fine Italian style. Only when pressed hard on sweeping curves does it betray signs of wallowing — and then it takes a bumpy surface. On smaller A-roads the California can hustle with alacrity; its size makes it feel barge-like and unwilling at first, but show it who's boss and it will go just where you push it.

And it stops well, too: the brakes are linked, using Guzzi's renowned system; pressing the foot-pedal operates the rear brake and one front disc proportionately. The handlebar lever brings in the other front disc, for brick-wall-quick emergency braking.

What spoils this fine machine is the power train. The California's heel-and-toe gearshift pedal looks part of the easy-rider pose. But you need it. Gear-changing takes a hefty boot, and is seldom achieved without a resounding clang. It makes town work tiring.

The shaft-drive is haunted by the old problem of torque reaction, which lifts the bike's rear when accelerating hard and can take the bike off its line through corners.

Afficionados call this kind of thing "character" — something the California has in abundance. The Guzzi demands you change your riding style to accommodate it, and things did get easier as the miles went by.

Moto Guzzi is currently introducing improvements to the 1997 model, uprating the suspension and braking systems — and there's more chrome too. The technical improvements are bound to make a good bike even better, but I wish they would take a serious look at the gearbox.

While the Italians are improving their version of an American landcruiser, the Americans are introducing their idea of a fast, European-style tourer. In a curious parallel, they are using an engine that can trace its history to US motorcycling's roots.

Buell only began selling motorcycles in Britain last year, but the bikes are built around the big daddy of famous bike names — Harley-Davidson. Buell's S3T Thunderbolt is no Yankee cruiser, however. The looks and ride are utterly different.

Erik Buell, engineer and racer, began building bikes around tuned Harley engines in 1983. Harley-Davidson was so impressed, it bought a stake in the company to enable it to expand — and get Harley into the sportsbike market.

The Thunderbolt is top of the new Buell range: it mixes the ancient — Harley's venerable V-twin, with the ultra-modern — high-tech suspension that includes a strange underslung rear shock absorber, Kevlar-reinforced belt-drive and a sub-chassis that isolates engine vibration from the rider. This is topped off with brutalist looks.

I suspected the Buell might be a toy to satisfy the latest executive must-have whim, but the idea was soon dispelled. The bike had a tough first test — battling from London to Morecambe in torrential summer rain. If I hadn't been on a mercy mission, I would have turned back. If the Buell hadn't been a serious sports-tourer, we wouldn't have made it.

Erik Buell makes bikes the way he thinks a bike should be — idiosyncrasies and all. The seat, footpegs and handlebars put you into a racerish crouch, and the engine is a world apart from those fitted to Harleys. Low-down grunt is sacrificed for a wide mass of mid-range power.

But while the Thunderbolt can bolt, it doesn't thunder. An odd-looking underslung stovepipe silences the motor massively. And gone are the Harley vibes, too, thanks to the chassis. It's an odd sensation, being shot down the road by an engine that you just *know* shouldn't sound like that, shouldn't be as smooth as that, and certainly shouldn't go like that.

The Buell handles sharply, underlining the difference between the sports-tourer and cruiser-tourer philosophies. Suspension is taut, and the bike even manages to feel small when on the move, but this does not stop it being a capable motorway bike, although the sporty fairing keeps little wind off the pilot.

The combination of taut chassis and massive mid-range punch makes the bike a great A-road scorcher. Higher-tuned sportsbikes may make much more power, but it's far up the rev range in a narrow band; the Buell makes it hard to come out of corners in the wrong gear, as the engine's wide band of stomp pulls you through — relaxed but fast.

Not all of the Buell's idiosyncratic nature is so pleasing; Buell does not think his bikes need an effective rear stopper, believing that the combination of massive front discs and engine braking is ample. Maybe, but why not fit a decent back brake anyway? The one currently fitted could hardly grace a moped. The importers are looking to improve it.

The fuel tap is awfully sited, hidden way under the tank. Twice I had to pull on to the motorway hard shoulder, engine spluttering, while a gloved hand groped desperately for the reserve tank position.

The bike's gearbox, a standard Harley Sportster item, finds it hard to keep up with the tuned engine. Tentative changing is onerous but necessary.

I quite liked its slightly knocked-together appearance, but other motorcyclists questioned whether the quality matched the cost.

But somehow these are niggles. For anyone who wants something as enigmatic as a Buell — and is prepared to pay the high purchase price — satisfaction awaits. Bikes only posess such irascible character when created by enthusiasts — which in marketing-dominated modern motorcycling makes it a rare beast, probably demanding a rare owner.

CALIFORNIA

Engine: 1,064cc 90-degree V-twin.

Maximum speed: 120mph.

Fuel consumption: 45mpg.

Weight: 245kg.

Seat height: 30.5in.

Equipment: Electronic fuel injection, linked braking system, screen, panniers.

Price: £8,345 on the road.

BUELL S3T

Engine: 1,203cc air-cooled 45-degree V-twin.

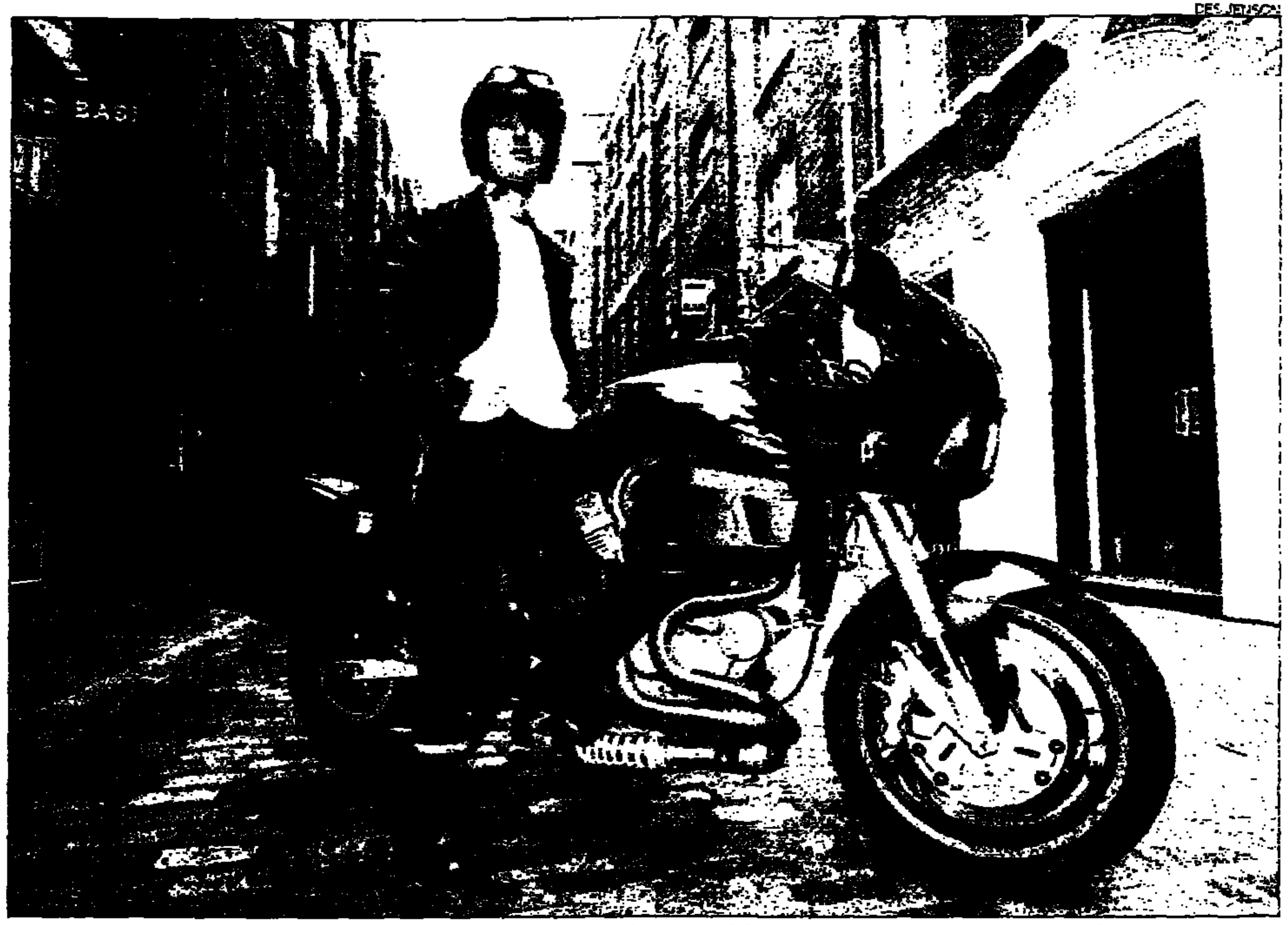
Maximum speed: 125mph.

Fuel consumption: 40mpg.

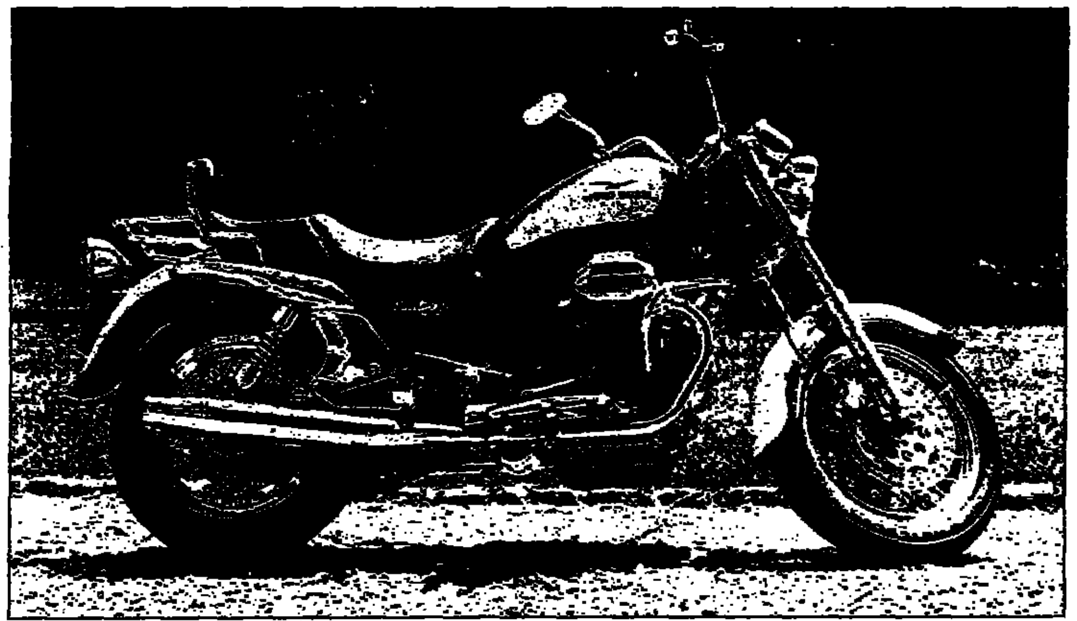
Seat height: 29.5in/74.93cm.

Equipment: Sports fairing, leg shields, panniers.

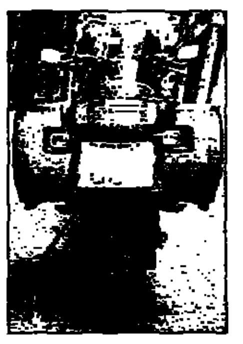
Price: £10,495.


DES JENSON

Buell's designer-tough looks are not to all bikers' taste, but at the heart of this innovation lies a tuned version of Harley's V-twin



California improvements for 1997 include tauter suspension units and even more chrome



Buell Thunderbolt's colour-matched panniers come in two sizes: the smaller capacity holds only the barest essentials for a weekend break, but the slim profile does not affect handling

EXCLUSIVE TIMES SPORTS OFFER

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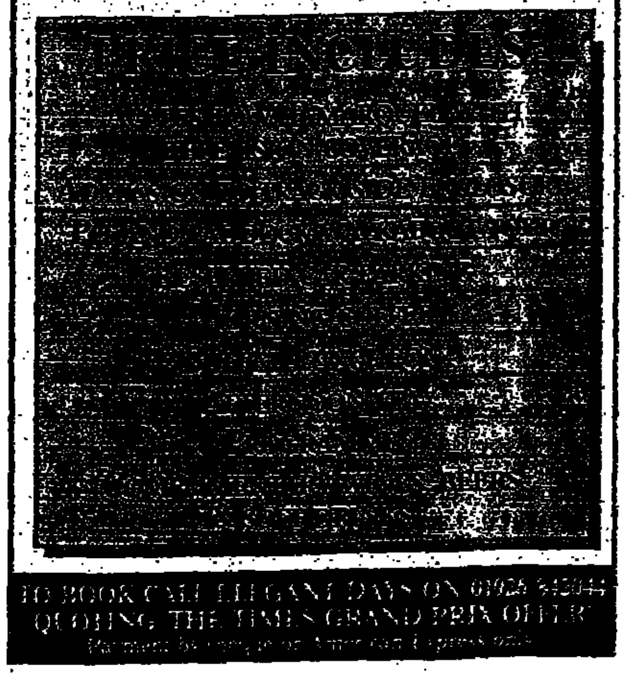
Donington Park Motor Circuit
Sunday 17th August
£115 per person

THE TIMES and Elegant Days have teamed up to offer readers fantastic savings on a first-class day out. For only £115 per person you will be entertained in a luxury marquee located within the VIP village. The site offers superb views over Redgate Corner and is within easy access of the grandstands and start/finish line. The normal cost of this package is around £240 per person. Early booking is recommended as offer is subject to availability.



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Mileage kings who ride the world

John Naish reports on intrepid men and women travellers' tales

Touring's modern flashy image might suggest that only young men with specialised machines should venture beyond a 50-mile radius of home. Not true; all you need is a bike, cash, roads and a destination.

Motorcycling has a proud tradition of covering incredible distances on unlikely machines, and latest in this line is Jeremy Pascoe, who has just returned from touring the world on a Honda Fireblade — a highly strung 170mph sportsbike that makes no concessions to comfort or, one would think, longevity.

Pascoe took a year off from working in advertising to raise money for the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund. His 81,000-mile trip took him throughout the EC and Eastern Europe, from Canada through the United States and into South America, where he was robbed at gunpoint of almost everything bar the bike.

He then went on to lap Australia twice — once against the clock. On the way, he hit a kangaroo at 140mph. Pascoe, who is in his 30s, sustained three broken fingers, a dislocated shoulder and a fractured knee; he had to put the shoulder back himself, then ride 110 miles to hospital.

He then attempted the round-Australia record, usually done in cars by teams of co-drivers. "It was just madness. I couldn't have gone any quicker," he says. "The need to sleep defeated me — I was riding about 18 hours a day, and at one point I just had to sleep for eight hours." He only missed the record by around three hours, completing the 8,912-mile journey in nine days, 18 hours, 34 minutes.

Now back in London, both man and bike are in good fettle. "The bike looks remarkably good, considering the 'roo damage, and it's going superbly," he says. But the bike may have seen the last of its road days. "It's being retired, and will live in the front room of my flat now. I'd be devastated if it ever got nicked."

Stuart Jenkinson is another distance king. But the 70-year-old has spent 43 years totalling 600,000 miles — all on the same machine. Jenkinson runs Bike & Sun Tours International, operating two-week guided-holiday tours around Europe for groups of up to 20 motorcyclists. "We don't set out in convoy, riders journey as they wish along recommended routes and meet in the evenings at the hotels we stay in," he says.

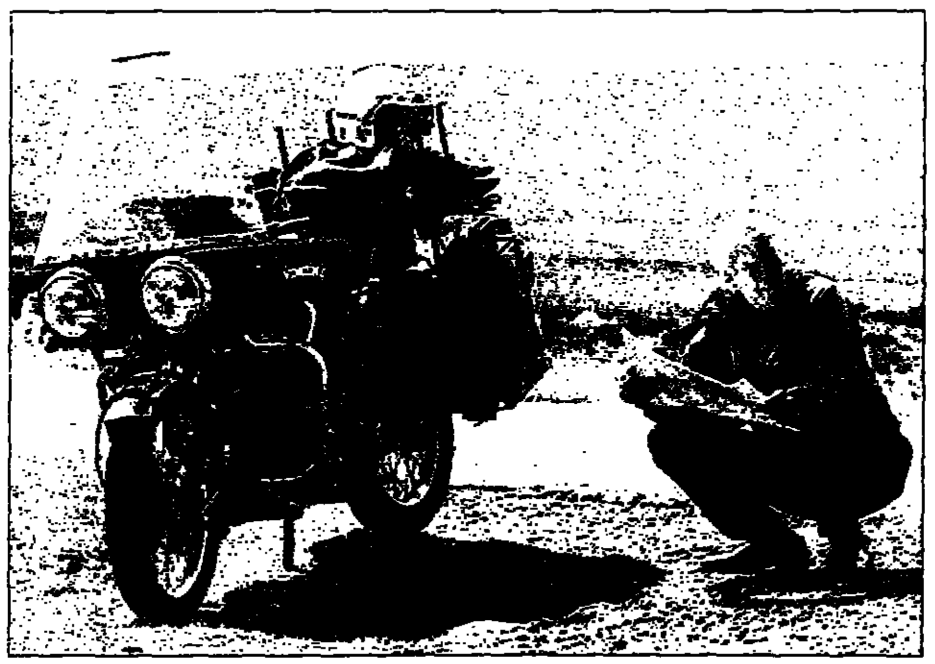
Jenkinson's mount, a Vincent Black Prince, is the type of bike you would expect more to see nowadays gracing museums or collectors' shows. But he has no thoughts of retiring the bike he bought new in 1955. "I've developed it over the years, and while I've been sidelined a couple of times by breakdowns, with a Vincent you can usually get it going from the side of the road."

Touring is by no means a male preserve, either. Sheonagh Ravensdale, British captain of the Women's International Motorcycle Association, has organised tours in Europe, Japan and Australia, and is planning a tour of Zimbabwe. "Male partners are welcome too, but our runs are extremely civilised."

Ravensdale has also gathered ten restored British motorcycles from the 50s to the 70s for a new venture, Classic Bike Tours, which offers bikers the chance to take these fine old thumpers on four to eight-day guided rides around quiet regions of the UK.

For the more intrepid, H-C Travel offers a wide, wild range of experiences: how about biking up to Machu Pichu in Peru, or riding over the world's highest path, in Northern India? H-C's David Grist says "You always have an element of risk with these tours, but we ensure that they are well sorted."

Bike and Sun Tours International: 01287 639739
Classic Bike Tours: 0181 690 4375
H-C Travel: 01256 770 775



Stuart Jenkinson with the 600,000-mile 1950s Vincent that he has owned since new

TOURING TIPS

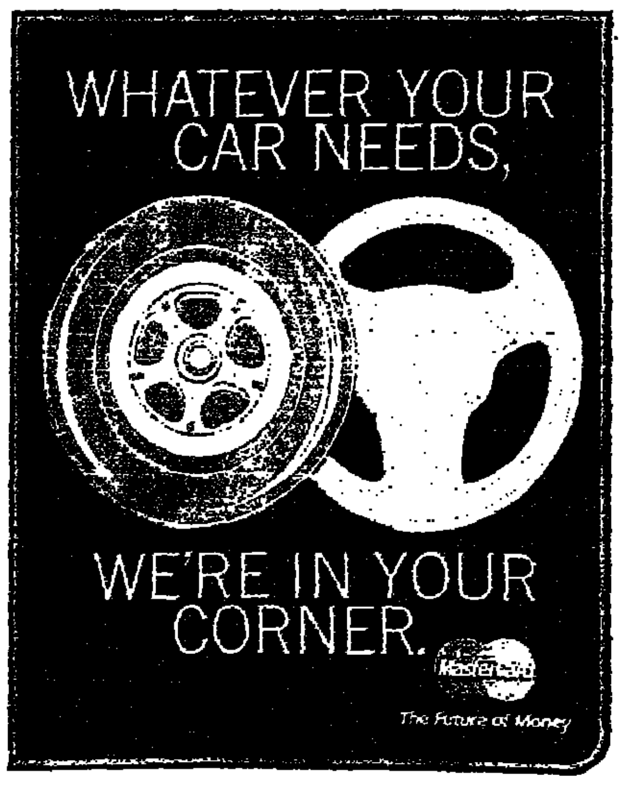
■ INSURANCE: you need a green card to take your bike abroad. Check with your insurer — some provide them free, others charge a premium.

■ BREAKDOWNS: A number of companies offer European recovery services: both the AA and RAC include motorbikes under their motoring schemes, and both standard cover schemes include roadside assistance, recovery, bike repairs, replacement vehicle hire costs, repatriation of the bike and hotel bills.

Seven days' recovery and medical insurance costs £57.75 with the RAC, £52 with the AA.

■ WHAT TO TAKE: the absolute minimum. Pack heavier luggage as low down and far forward as possible, or it will lift the front wheel. Tank bags can help here. Pack your panniers with equal weights.

■ GOING TO EUROPE: Check with your ferry operators for seasonal specials but ensure that the cargo handlers lash your bike down properly. Eurostar offers cheaper night-time travel, charging £37.50 for a five-day return if you go between 10pm and 6am.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Alfa Romeo

HAMPSHIRE - Cleveland Cars Ltd Ash St (A323) Ash, Aldershot Hampshire GU12 6LZ Phone 01252 334065

HAMPSHIRE - Cleveland Cars Ltd Ash St (A323) Ash, Aldershot Hampshire GU12 6LZ Phone 01252 334065

STAFFORDSHIRE - Platts of Longton Lightwood Rd Longton Stoke on Trent, Staffs. ST3 4JG. Tel: Les Rose on 01782 599400

ASTON MARTIN

KENT - Lancaster Sevenoaks Ltd 92 London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1BA. David Bradshaw 01732 456300

NORWICH - Stratton Motor Company (Norfolk) Ltd Ipswich Rd Long Stratton. Charlie Skelton Tel: 01508 530491

SURREY - H.W.M. LIMITED at New Zealand Avenue, Walton on Thames, Surrey, KT12 1AT. Paul Spires 01932 220404

Audi

LONDON - SCOTTS AUDI 214 Pavilion Road, London SW1X 0AN. Sales Tel 0171 730 2131. Services Tel 0171 730 5484

BMW

HERTFORDSHIRE - Specialist Cars London Road, Stevenage, Herts. Tel 01438 790200 Web http://www.specialistcars.co.uk/bmw/

LONDON - MLG of CHISWICK at 492 - 496 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 5TT. Please call 0181 995 1663

LONDON - BATES IN LONDON at 289 - 299 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall Bridge, London SE1. 0171 582 6000

MIDDLESEX - Heathrow BMW Ltd Park House, Horton Road, West Drayton, UB7 8JD. Please call 0181 848 8866, 0802 611566

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - SYTNER DIRECT 165 Huntingdon Street, NG1 3NH. Used Car Manager Mel Smith 0115 924 1144

BMW

SURREY - Coombs of Guildford Slyfield Green Estate, Woking Road, Guildford GU1 1RD Freephone 0800 289 486

CATERHAM CARS

DERBYSHIRE - John Noble Motorsport Unit 21 Station Lane Ind Est, Old Whittington Chesterfield. 01246 453867

FIAT

HAMPSHIRE - Cleveland Cars Ltd Ash St (A323) Ash, Aldershot Hampshire GU12 6LZ Phone 01252 334065

HONDA

KENT - WHITEHOUSE HONDA 20 Broadway, Bexley Heath, Kent, DA6 7LR. Tel: 0181 303 6363 Fax: 0181 301 5753

ISUZU

DORSET - Meridian Majestic Garage Ltd Wallisdown, Bournemouth, BH11 8QE Contact Kevin Butt 01202 525111

JAGUAR

CAMBRIDGESHIRE - Marshall Peterborough Tyrrell Park, Boongate PE1 5PT Alan Wensak 01733 313335

KENT - Lancaster Sevenoaks Ltd 92 London Rd. email jaguar@sevenoaks.lancasterplc.com 01732 456300

LONDON - WOODFORD JAGUAR 50 - 56 High Road, Woodford, London, E18 1AS Steve Russell 0181 989 6644

LONDON - Stratstone of Mayfair 40 Berkeley Street, London, W1X 6EN Stewart Banks 0171 629 4404, Sun 0468 505672

WEST MIDLANDS - COLLIERS at 166 - 168 Birmingham Rd, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1BX Keith Gallaghan 0121 355 6151

WEST YORKSHIRE - Appleyard Jaguar Bradford Northbrook Street, Canal Road, BD1 4RQ Mike Smith 01274 394439

WEST YORKSHIRE - Perrys Jaguar Northgate, Huddersfield, HD1 0AP. Contact Howard Jessop 01484 481200

LAND-ROVER

LONDON - LANCASTER CITY at 68 - 70 High Street, Stratford, E15 2NE New and Used Models 0181 522 0023

LEXUS

BERKSHIRE - Currie Motors Rose Kiln Lane, Reading. Mike Miller www.lexus.co.uk/curriemotors 01734 758877

LONDON - HASSOP LEXUS 291/295 Willesden Lane, London, NW2 5HY. Call Ferdy Gottschall 0181 459 0005

SHEFFIELD - Monty's of Sheffield, 260 Penistone Road, Sheffield. Please Contact David Pepper on 01142 855558

LOTUS

BERKSHIRE - S.G.T Lotus, Station Garage, Station Road, Taplow, (Near Maidenhead) SL6 0NT. Tel: 01628 605353

DERBYSHIRE - Peter Smith Sports Cars. Station Road, Hatton, in Derby, Derbyshire, DE6 5EL. Tel: 01283 813593

DERBYSHIRE - Peter Smith Sports Cars. Station Road, Hatton, in Derby, Derbyshire, DE6 5EL. Tel: 01283 813593

mazda

LONDON - CURRIE MOTORS Wimbledon 165 The Broadway Wimbledon, SW19. Please call 0181 543 1131

LONDON - HASSOP MAZDA 370 - 386 High Road, Wembley, HA9 6AX. Demonstrations at your home or office, 0800 132 909

MERCEDES

BERKSHIRE - SUNNINGDALE CARRIAGE COMPANY London Road, Berkshire. Telephone 01344 871200

ESSEX - London Road Mercedes Tel: 01708 730424/ Fax: 01708 748855. Visit at www.londonroad.co.uk

ESSEX - London Road Mercedes 20-28 London Road, Romford. Tony Consentie Sales Manager T: 01708 730424/Fax 748855

LONDON: BRADSHAW WEBB LTD Wandsworth Bridge, South London SW18 1TE. Call Mike Hutchinson 0171 493 7705

MG

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Go to work on an icon

Vespa's neat, nippy scooter beats the city rush, Linda Galloway says

Modernised lines accentuate the Vespa's good looks while upgrading its equipment

Choosing a form of transport for the city involves a number of decisions: how much to spend, how often it will be used, fuel consumption, maintenance, parking ... and looks. Scooters score high on this checklist. And when you say the word scooter, the name Vespa springs to mind.

After all, it's a cultural icon; the manufacturer has been around for 50 years and none of its competitors carries the cachet that comes with the distinctive Italian styling.

The ET2 is Vespa parent-company Piaggio's entry-level machine — a 50cc engine in a new body that is instantly Vespa. Modern styling exaggerates the curves of the tidy, streamlined design, with the mirrors set in bulging, insect-like antennae. The instruments go beyond the basic speedometer and indicators to luxuries such as a digital clock and a petrol light — handy on a small bike with a little tank.

The ET2 has all the features one associates with scooters — it's light and easy to manouevre, has twist-and-go technology, a comfortable riding position, low fuel consumption and requires only low maintenance.

The added bonus with the 50cc, although it is restricted to 30mph, is that it doesn't require a separate motorcycle licence and is ideal for first-timers — fulfilling the Vespa's original brief to provide an outlet for youngsters wanting independence.

Very much a city run-around, it performs the task easily enough although the tiny wheels struggled a bit with inner-city "traffic calming" speed bumps, the biggest obstacle they were called upon to negotiate.

It is simple to filter through to the front of the traffic at intersections — a must if you want to get out of the exhaust fumes that threaten to asphyxiate bikers. The drawback with the ET2 here is that once you've accelerated cleanly away from the traffic, you quickly reach the maximum speed and it is frustrating not to have that extra surge of acceleration.

Using it to commute to work was a boon, although when cruising at top speed I had irritable drivers impatient to get past me. Let them rush, I thought, enjoying a less stressful journey at a dignified — and legal — pace.

While being on a motorcycle means getting togged up in more protective gear than one would need to catch a bus, the benefits of being able to nip through the traffic more than compensate.

Once you get where you're going, parking is a cinch (and mostly free) and the compartment under the seat, which handily stows a larger-than-average handbag while in transit, then accommodates the cumbersome helmet while you're away. The rack at the back is perfect for briefcases.

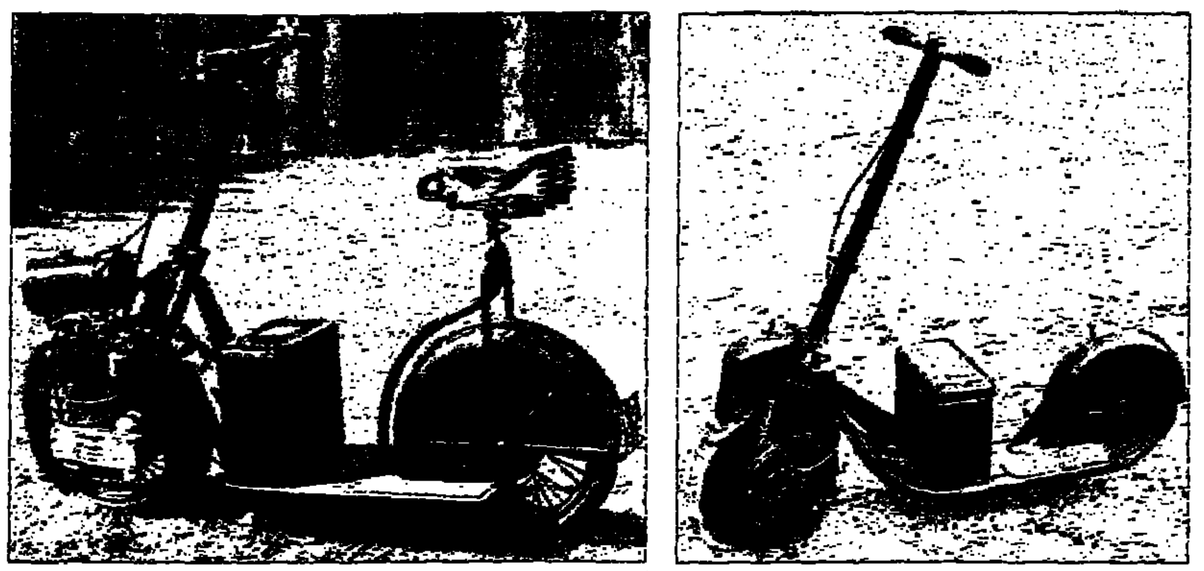
The knees-together riding position may seem prissy by comparison with motorbikes, but it means you are not restricted to trousers, which might necessitate a change of clothing once you reach the office.

There is also a range of accessories that will convert the scooter into a pack horse, with front and back luggage racks or a topbox, and a screen for weather protection.

Although some of the original arguments against scootering remain — unpredictable weather, uneven road surfaces, mad car drivers — Nineties engineering has easily answered any questions over reliabilty.

VESPA ET2

Engine: 50cc single cylinder 2-stroke.
Transmission: automatic.
Maximum speed: 30mph (restricted).
Consumption: 48.5km/l.
Weight: 96kg.
Price: £1,999.



Scooters like these 1916 Autoped Ever Readys were put on the market to catch the postwar wave of popularity

More MoD than mod

The first fad followed the armistice, says Linda Galloway

The car may have come first, but the idea that two wheels were better than four was not far behind. The cult of the scooter may have emerged in the Fifties, with the refinement of design that the early Italian machines brought. But scootermania first took hold in London in 1919, following the First World War.

The hype at the time was focused on an American model called the Autoped — Selfridges claimed that if it had enough stock it could have sold 100 a day — although a model called the Max had been exhibited at the Stanley Show in London in 1907, and a three-wheeled machine called the MotoFrip had been exhibited at Olympia in 1911, to little acclaim.

The summer of 1919 was hot and heady — wages had doubled during the war years, with few commodites available to buy, and demobbed soldiers, sailors and airmen had service gratuities to spend. The demand for motorcycles was high and there were not enough to go round.

The motorcycling press denounced the scooter's riding position, while recognising its low cost, light weight and low fuel consumption, but the main complaint seemed to be that America was about to swamp the market.

But the first British scooter was about to be launched. The Skootamota had no suspension, and relied on large wheels and tyres to absorb road shocks. The frame was welded steel tubing and the 125cc four-stroke engine was, in effect, half of an ABC flat-twin trench-pump unit. It had a top speed of 20mph and returned at least 120mpg.

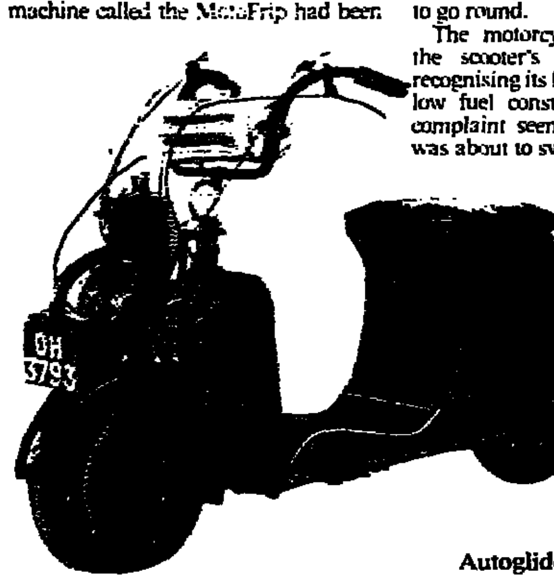
In its original form the Skootamota, designed by Granville Bradshaw and built by Gilbert Campling Ltd, had the rider standing up, but by the time it was on sale a saddle had been added. It cost £40 and outsold all its later rivals, which were being announced almost daily.

Some of the contenders were crudely designed and even dangerous, and most never made it into production. A front-wheel drive formula was favoured but the drawbacks to this were recognised early on — if the engine backfired on starting the whole thing would pivot, depositing the driver in a heap, and steering was problematic.

One of the better and most long-lived designs was the G. S .C. Autoclette, marketed as the Kenilworth, and built by Captain Smith Clarke for his wife. It was more of a miniature motorcycle, and had a 142cc Norman engine.

Despite the positive press, very few scooters actually made it into production, and after an inclement summer and rising inflation in 1920, *Motor Cycling* magazine pointed out the harsh reality: "The sun does not always shine, roads are not always smooth, engines do break down."

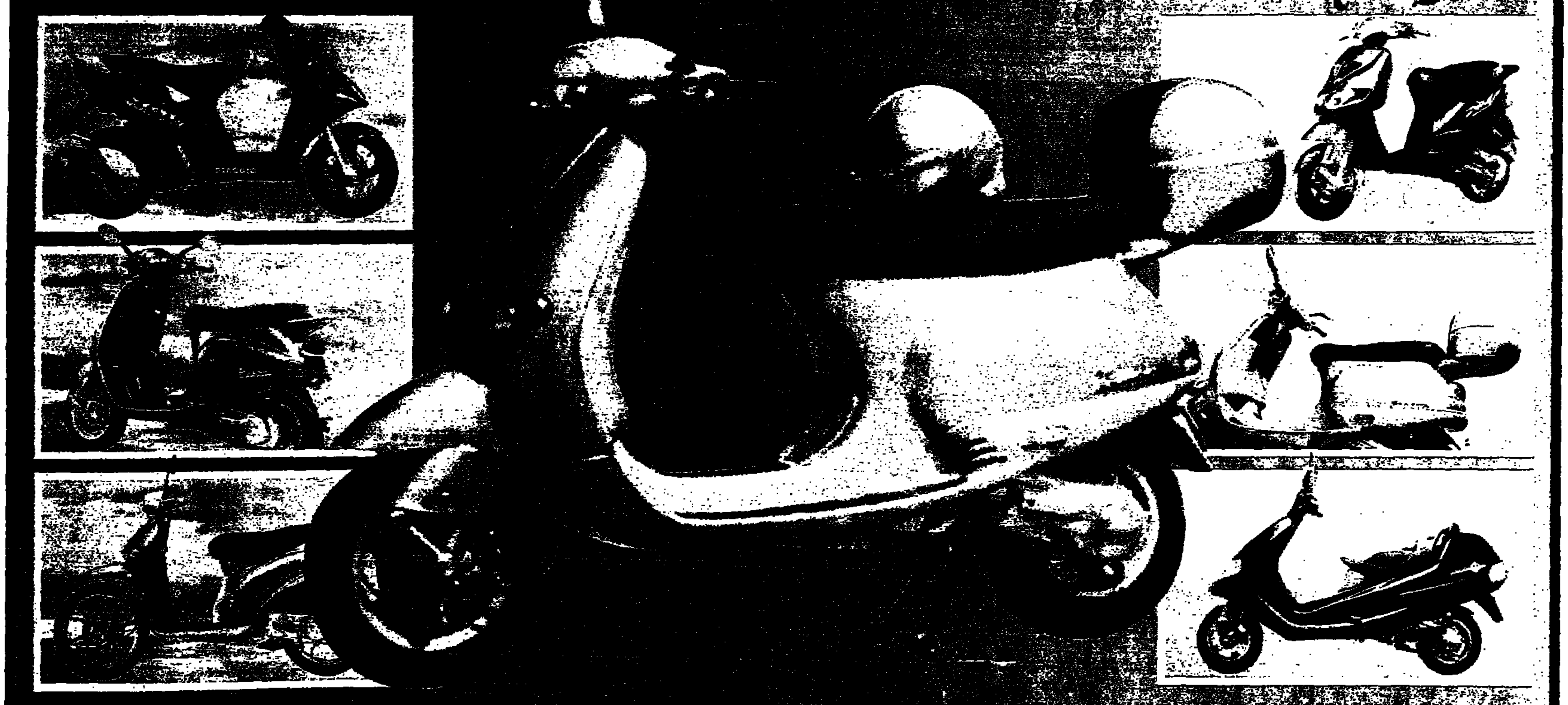
So it was not until 1950, another world war later, that design, production and demand coalesced for a successful assault on the market.



Autoglider: plain dangerous

▸ REWARDING TIMES ◂

WIN ONE OF 7 SCOOTERS



This week *The Times*, in association with Piaggio, gives you the chance to win one of seven fabulous scooters. They are worth approximately £11,600 in total. Scooters are the nineties way to get about. Fast, safe, the best way to beat traffic jams, they are also as environmentally friendly as motorised wheels get. They cost about three pence a mile to run and in most places there is free parking. All Piaggio scooters come with a dual seat and you can store luggage or a helmet.

The Vespa was first created 50 years ago and more than 15 million have been sold worldwide. A recognised style icon, we launch our prize draw with the Vespa ET2 which is brought up to date with the latest technology but retains the style of the classic Vespa. The Piaggio scooter prizes are: Vespa ET2 (main pic) and, clockwise from the bottom left: Liberty 50cc; Vespa ET4; NRG and Zip SP (Sport Production) both come with free insurance; Vespa ET2; and Hexagon 125cc.

HOW TO ENTER

Simply collect four of the seven tokens which will appear in *The Times* this week and send them with the completed entry form which will be published on Thursday. On the entry form you should state which bike you would like to win. The closing date for entries is Friday September 12, 1997. Readers must be over 16 to enter.

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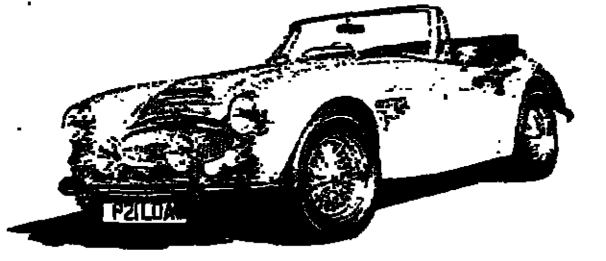

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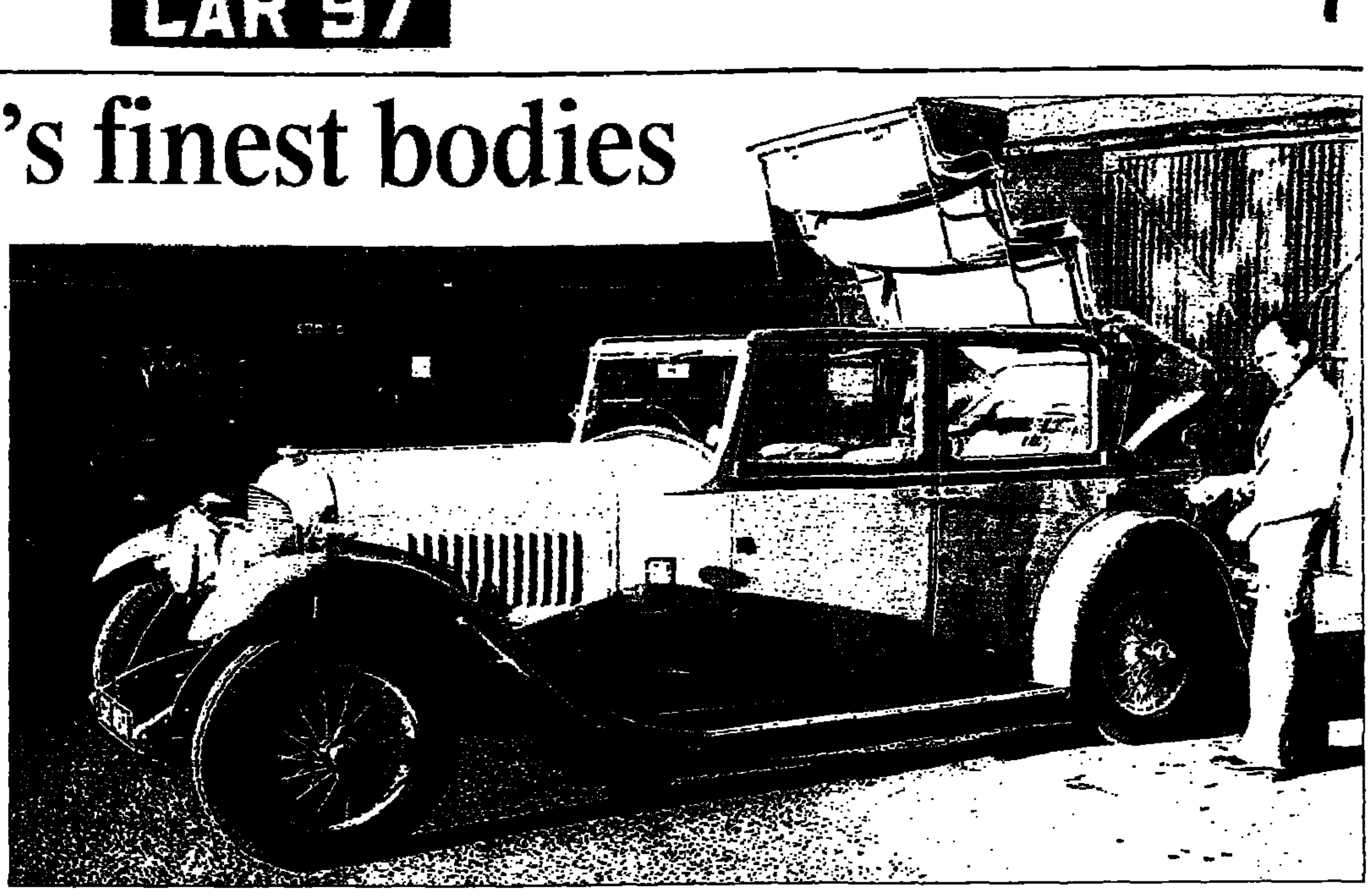


NP badge, far left: does anyone know of a surviving car? Clifford Petts shows Salmons' world-first mechanical hood system, as seen on a 1929 Bentley, right

Aston Martin's forebears, Salmons and Tickford are set for a reunion, says **Ian Morton**

Say Newport Pagnell to any motoring enthusiast the world over, and the innocuous Buckinghamshire town's name will bring a gleam to their eye; three words inevitably form on their lips — Aston Martin Lagonda. Say Newport Pagnell to Clifford Petts and two other names emerge — Salmons and Tickford.

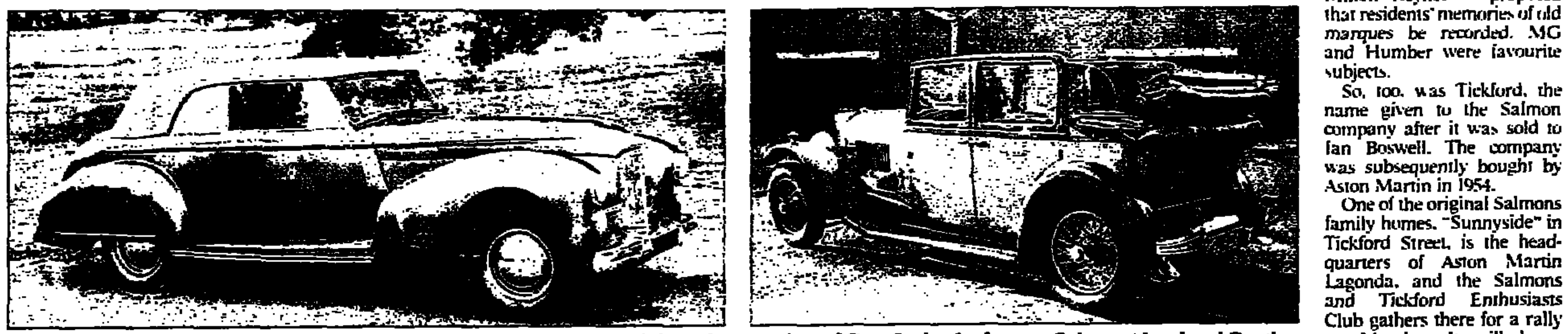
Because, for all that the famous luxury carmaker represents and all that it evokes, Aston Martin Lagonda is a latecomer to Newport Pagnell. Motorised wheels turned in the town long before the arrival of the present prestigious car-making incumbent. They involved the names of Salmons and Tickford.

During the formative years of the British automobile, large numbers of cart and carriage-makers whose livelihood was clearly threatened sought their future in the emerging world of mechanical transport. A handful prospered, some spectacularly. Most succumbed to commercial failure, or were taken over by other, more successful, fledgling carmakers.

Salmons & Sons did better than many. Established in Newport Pagnell in 1820 by Joseph Salmons to manufacture a wide variety of horse-drawn vehicles, the firm had prospered. London premises were opened in Upper St. Martin's Lane and Burlington Street.

The products were noted for their quality. A baker's cart built in 1862 plied Newport Pagnell's streets until 1938, and remains a prized survivor. A 13-seat omnibus supplied to the Earl of Belmore in 1863 is now exhibited in the Belfast Museum.

Around the turn of the century, Salmons switched some of its coachbuilding skills to producing bodies for motor cars, since most carmakers at that time offered only basic running chassis. The oldest surviving example of their early bodywork is a 1908 Vinot et Deguignand which appeared in the film, *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*.



1950 Humber Super Snipe with Tickford Drophead Coupé bodywork, left, and a rear view of Grey Lady, the famous Salmons drophead Bentley

Between 1900 and 1909 the firm's workforce quadrupled to 100. Salmons bodies were fitted to a large number of chassis. At the Olympia motor show in 1913 there were 31 exhibits with Salmons coachwork. Newport Pagnell had become, even then, a centre of excellence.

In 1923 the firm launched into carmaking on its own account, producing Meadows-engined saloons and open cars carrying the NP badge. But a postwar recession was a bad time to launch a new marque.

A total of 395 cars were sold, but profits were slight and production ceased in 1925. Rumour has it that two examples of the NP survive in France, but there is none in this country, as far as Clifford Petts knows.

And if anyone would know, it would be Petts. His great-grandfather, Alden, joined the firm in 1842, his grandfather Eli started work there in 1879, his father Percy was one of Eli's five children who worked for the firm. Clifford became an apprentice pattern-maker there in 1932, and his son and granddaughter have both briefly worked for Aston Martin, which eventually took over the company.

That makes six generations.

The history of vehicle manfacture in Newport Pagnell is the history of the Petts family.

Retired after 51 years as a pattern-maker, Clifford, now 79, has become the recognised archivist of the old firms for which he worked. In 1988 he and two other members of Newport Pagnell Historical Society — commendably concerned about the threat of engulfment of their town by Milton Keynes — proposed that residents' memories of old marques be recorded. MG and Humber were favourite subjects.

So, too, was Tickford, the name given to the Salmon company after it was sold to Ian Boswell. The company was subsequently bought by Aston Martin in 1954.

One of the original Salmons family homes, "Sunnyside" in Tickford Street, is the headquarters of Aston Martin Lagonda, and the Salmons and Tickford Enthusiasts Club gathers there for a rally on Monday. It will be a modest but important assertion of Newport Pagnell's place in early motoring history.

And if any reader knows of an NP lurking in a barn or doing service as a chicken coop, or even has access to Salmons or Tickford memorabilia, the time to come forward is now. Newport Pagnell and history need you.

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South Bank show for Citroën's venerable old Avant guards

Eve-Ann Prentice on a gathering of lovingly restored French cars that were once adored equally by Gestapo and Resistance members

Boys' toys: Peter Kutapan, two, brought his own little example along to the collection of Traction Avants that went on display as part of the Coin Street Festival last Sunday

Little boy lost — in thought. A small child thinks big as dozens of Citroëns from a bygone age go on show on London's South Bank.

Peter Kutapan, two, couldn't quite handle the big stuff when a collection of Traction Avants went on display as part of the Coin Street Festival last Sunday, so he brought his own toy version along for the ride.

It is 40 years since Citroën ceased production of the ground-breaking Traction Avant, a car that has played no small part in history and was beloved in its time by gangsters and generals as well as gendarmes, the Gestapo as well as the French Resistance.

At its launch in 1934, the Traction Avant was the first mass-produced car with unitary body construction, front-wheel drive, fully independent suspension and fully hydraulic brakes. The low-slung lines and lack of running boards set it apart from the rest and the lack of a transmission tunnel because of the front-wheel drive gave the car an uncluttered and spacious interior. The early 1.3-litre engine soon gave way to a 1.9-litre long-stroke four-cylinder unit that rapidly became famous for its durability. Traction Avants that have covered 100,000 miles or more are not at all unusual.

Perhaps best known in this country as the car used by Inspector Maigret, Georges Simenon's famous detective, it probably did more than any other model to bring the French marque to world attention. When it was first introduced its advanced engineering was hailed as sensational and the car has always had a devoted following among classic enthusiasts. It was the official car of the French Fourth Republic.

For much of its 23-year production span the Traction Avant was among those Citroëns assembled at the company's British plant in Slough, Berkshire, where it was known first as the Super Modern 12 then as power increased as the Light 15 or Big 15. One of the most sought-after versions among enthusiasts is the semi-cabriolet made at Slough of which only four examples are known to survive.

In postwar France the model had a powerful emotional appeal, as well as providing reliable family transport. Some of the models once seized by the Gestapo were commandeered again by the French Resistance in support of the Allied forces after the Normandy landings.

The display of classic Citroens at the South Bank last weekend, which also included the DS, SM and 2CV, was organised by Classic Restorations. The company, one of the first to specialise in the Traction Avant, restores and services the cars under the railway arches at Waterloo station.

Ford celebrates two decades since the initial R

Commemorative plates: the sporty Escort Mexico of 1976, left, and the new Puma

It was the year Mao Tse-tung died, Manchester United beat Liverpool 2-1 in the FA Cup, Red Rum won the Grand National for the third time, and a pound of cheese cost 44p. *Eve-Ann Prentice writes.*

It was also the year new R-registration cars appeared on the roads — the last time round — and a date which holds fond memories for the Ford Motor Company. The year with an R in it was 1976, when James Callaghan became Prime Minister, James Hunt was reigning Formula One champion in his McLaren Ford M23, and Ford became market leader in Britain.

The carmaker still dominates the British market and, to mark the 21 years between the two Rs, Ford held a celebration day at its Heritage Centre in Dagenham last week, when an alphabet of cars from the intervening years was displayed, from a 1976 Escort Mexico to a brand new Puma.

Remembering the year when *Rocky* won an Oscar for best film and *Man About the House* was the height of television panache, Ford marketing director Tom Pallister pointed out that today's customers are far more demanding when it comes to buying a car.

"Our cars have come a long way since 1976," he said at the celebration day. "Driving a Ford is now a safer, more comfortable and more satisfying experience . . . you can now get more car features such as power steering, air conditioning, CD players, heated seats and electric windows on even the smallest cars in the range."

Some of the fictional customers who have taken the wheel of Fords over the past 21 years include *The Professionals'* Bodie and Doyle in Capris, *The Sweeney's* John Thaw in a Granada and Jimmy Nail, in *Spender*, in a Sierra Cosworth.

One other thing has changed since the last time new cars boasted an R registration — 1976 was one of the hottest summers on record.

CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE

FORECOURT

■ AS WITH all VWs, the Passat is super-strong, built like a tank, but unlike its smaller Golf and Polo cousins, has an astonishing ability to carry piles of suitcases, people, furniture and rubber plants — especially in its estate form.

Its enormously strong build means that covering distances even up to and way beyond 150,000 miles poses no challenge to the Passat. It is also roomy for occupants, cosy, and robust, reports *CAP Black Book*.

Whereas the Golf oozes image however, the Passat lacks it entirely, which no doubt contributes to the fact that when new its value depreciates like a falling rock. The Passat can also be costly to service.

The estate version is more highly regarded than the saloon, and this is reflected in the price, with the larger car being more expensive. Provided they come with a full service history, high-mileage cars can make a very shrewd buy, as they wear their miles so lightly.

The GL specification cars are most popular, and while the diesel-engined variants are OK, the best of the bunch is the 1.9-litre diesel. Best buy overall is a 1994 M-reg 2-litre petrol GL Estate, which with 60,000 to 70,000 miles on the clock is likely to cost in the region of £8,000.

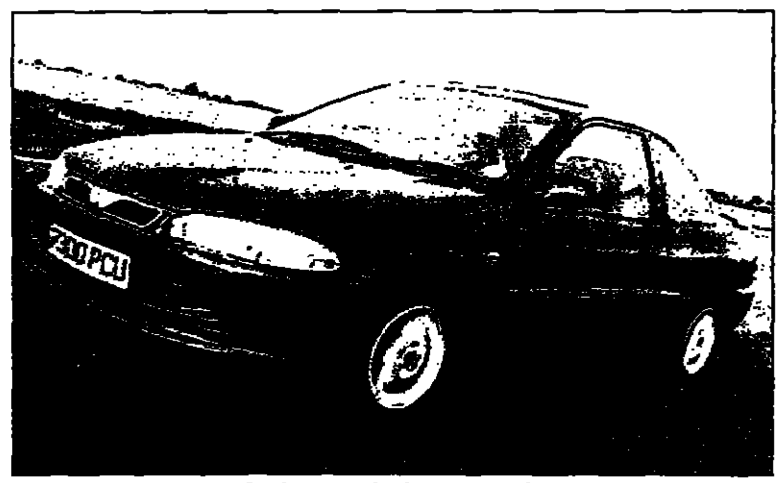
Avoid the bottom-of-the-range L specification cars as these are a bit basic, and the GT 16-valve car can be difficult to sell again.

Turbodiesels are often overpriced. When buying, watch out for exhaust smoke, worn shock absorbers, and especially for cars that have been clocked, since Passats that have done 80,000 miles and more can easily look to have done far fewer.

Saloon that's a coupé under the skin

ROADTEST

Ian Morton finds Proton's two-door a powerful persuader



Restrained lines are broken only by five-spoke wheels and rear spoiler

Definitions are not getting any more definite. Here is a car which another manufacturer might call a two-door or sports saloon. But despite its obvious relationship with the Persona family model, Proton says it is a coupé.

Whatever the semantics there is no argument about the nature of this latest product from Malaysia. Even acknowledging design and engineering from Mitsubishi (which holds 17 per cent of the manufacturing company) the 1.8 Coupé is Proton's most serious bit of motoring kit yet.

It does not look especially distinguished. Neat, perhaps, and a tad purposeful by reason of five-spoke alloys and bootlid spoiler, the new Proton stands unremarkable in the parade of today's svelte two-door shapes and sporting stances. Which makes on-the-road reality all the more surprising. The 1.8 Coupé proves well-knit and properly poised under pressure, and delivers a heap of performance for £13,999.

No small sportscar would be ashamed to offer 7,500rpm and show 0-60mph in 7.5 seconds. At 120mph, fourth gear still has revs to spare. Fifth pushes on to 126mph. More practically, the 133bhp 1.8-litre 16-valve twin-cam feels muscular from around 2,000rpm, and sustains spirited response virtually to the top of the revs.

The engine has a hard tone which becomes intense from 3,400rpm. When the lower gears are being wound up the Coupé could be accused of intrusion. There again, the gearing is such that 70mph needs only 3,100rpm, so cruising is a peaceful business.

The chassis is notably quiet. The suspension, pattery and restless over poor surfaces in town, silently absorbs dips and roughness at speed, and the tyres show similar discretion. At medium and high speeds it is wind hustle that dominates, before the engine shouts through.

Roadholding is convincing enough to contain most swift corners, at least in the dry, and the front tyres wail a timely warning of approaching understeer. When the front end does unstick, it goes gently and the car remains well balanced and smoothly directed. The steering matches the mood perfectly with its easy ratio, moderate weight and satiny feel.

Whatever antics the driver may provoke, the car feels tidy, small and rigid. It is a mature and gratifying product whose approach — together with its restrained styling — must appeal to the sort of drivers Proton see as their target audience, specifically the young with responsibilities and the older with retained expectations, but both with limited finances.

Yet the specification is practical and generous.

Furthermore, a six-year/60,000 mile mechanical warranty, three-year/60,000 mile total vehicle cover and three years' RAC membership — the best package in the UK market — are further inducements to support a model that must challenge a few entrenched perceptions.

PROTON COUPE

Engine: 1,834cc four-cylinder 16-valve twin-cam, 133bhp.

Transmission: five-speed manual.

Performance: 0-60mph, 7.5 seconds; 126mph max.

Economy: 23.8mpg urban, 41.8mpg extra-urban, 32.7mpg combined.

Equipment: power steering, driver's airbag, ABS, electric front windows and mirrors, electronic immobiliser, alloy wheels, metallic paint.

Price: £13,999 (available September).

WIN AN UPSIDE DOWN ATLAS

■ FORGET in-car navigation, the satellite-guided wonder that tells you how to find your way via a dashboard screen. There is a far simpler answer, *Alan Copps writes.*

With a special thought for our friends in the North, Ashley Sims has launched the Upside Down Map Company to produce an atlas with one set of conventional maps, with north at the top of the page, and another set reversed to help drivers travelling from north to south.

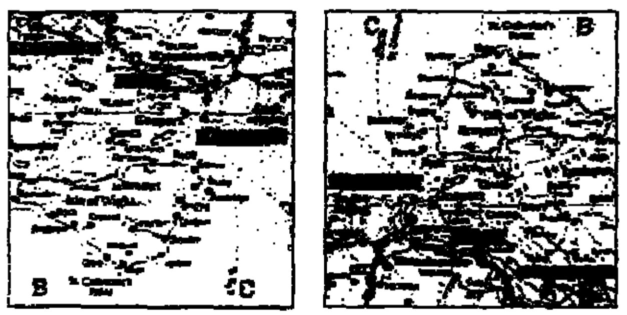
The atlas is on its third print run and more than 20,000 have been sold. By answering our simple question below, readers of *CAR 97* can win one of 20 copies courtesy of the Upside Down Map company.

"Anyone travelling around the UK will know that life is simple when you are driving south to north using a conventional map, but a great deal more tricky when travelling in the other direction," says Sims, 25, from Derbyshire.

"If you turn the map upside down the place names are unreadable and if you read the map backwards in the direction you are driving, right hand turns and places are on the left and vice versa."

The A4-size atlas gives a range of about 100 miles per page. "I had the idea years ago but did nothing about it. Then my father, John Sims, registered it and tried to interest map producers. They all dismissed it as a gimmick.

"Then he said 'If you think you can do better, you do it'. I tried to get sponsorship from oil companies but that failed. So he gave me £8,000 and I used it to get samples printed. I took it to W. H. Smith and they loved it, then John Menzies took it, then BP and Texaco wanted it. Now I'm negotiating to do a map of Ireland and on September 21, I'm launching an upside down map of California," says Sims.



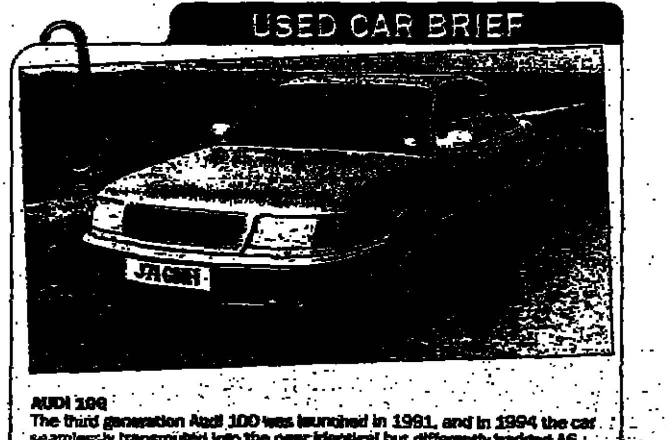
A conventional map, left, and north-friendly alternative

The Upside Down Atlas costs £8.99 or can be ordered direct, plus £1 p&p, from Latitude, 34 The Broadway, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 2NW, tel. 01707 663090.

To win one of our 20 prizes, answer the following question on a postcard with your name and address and send to: Map contest, *CAR 97*, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Winners will be drawn from all correct entries. Closing date August 20. Usual rules apply.

On a conventional map which compass point is at the bottom of the page?

USED CAR BRIEF



AUDI 100

The third generation Audi 100 was launched in 1991, and in 1994 the car seamlessly transmuted into the near identical but differently badged A6. Available as a four-door saloon and a huge estate, the engine range includes the four cylinder 2-litre petrol, five-cylinder 2.2 and 2.3-litre petrol, 2.5-litre five-cylinder turbo-diesel and 2.6 and 2.8-litre V6 petrol.

GOOD NEWS
Rock-like build, roomier than the rival BMW 5-series, especially the estate which is positively cavernous. Standard equipment includes anti-lock brakes, power steering, and even heated headlamp washers and a reputation as a safe, solid car, even if it lacks image

BAD NEWS
Spare parts can be costly as can service charges. Noisy wheel bearings, leaks from the power steering system, as well as smoky engines from cars that have covered high mileages, plus excessive tappet noise, can all indicate a car that has worked hard

LOOK FOR
Towing power. For anyone with a caravan, boat or trailer or who covers big motorway distances, the 2.5-litre turbo-diesel is one of the best available, a smooth engine especially effective when matched to a six-speed gearbox. The turbodiesel is even more useful in four-wheel-drive quattro guise

AVOID
quattros with uneven tyre wear which could indicate faults with the system. Some hard-worked diesels can be rough and smaller engined cars, such as the 2-litre petrol cars, suffer valve problems. Check for damage to body panels which is costly to repair

SAFETY
Rated 30 per cent safer than smaller cars by the Department of Transport, and on a par with cars like the Rover 800 and the 1980s BMW 5-series. Big and chunky offering lots of peace of mind

INSURANCE
Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1991 2-litre saloon costs a 55-year-old professional male, living in Winchester with full no claims, £214 a year fully comprehensive, a woman £217. A 22-year-old male, with one year no claims living in south London pays £1,402, a woman £1,158

PARTS
(Prices supplied by Glassmatix 01932 823822): clutch assembly £153 (exchange); full exhaust £353; catalytic converter £485 (exchange); rear damper £63; front brakepads £45; alternator £182 (exchange); starter motor £152 (exchange); radiator £227 (exchange)

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OVERALL
Audi's big car had long fought a losing battle against the BMW 5-series but the new generation Audi 100 started to change that. Not cheap to buy or to care for, the 100 offers different motoring with a low-key prestige badge. Buy with dealer backing to avoid the most costly bills, and go for the turbodiesel for economy as well as performance

MAZDA

MX5 Harvard 1.8 97R Lthr, CD, Alloys, £17,495. 0800 614 258

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96N	911 Cpe Midnight, Air, 17"	9T
95N	911 Cpe Slate Grey, Air, 17"	12T
95M	911 Cpe Aventura, Air, 17"	29T
94M	911 Cpe Polar Silver, Air, 17"	21T
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96P	911 C4S Cpe Iris Blue	6T
96N	911 C4S Cpe Polar Silver	6T
96N	911 Cpe Black Met, Air, 17"	6T
96N	911 Cpe Iris Blue, Air, 17"	20T
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95N	911 RS Midnight, Air	23T
96P	911 Tga Ocean Blue	7T
96N	911 Cab Iris Blue, Air, 17"	8T
94L	911 Cab Polar Silver, 17"	22T
94L	911 Cpe Aventura, Air, 18"	28T
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95N	911 Carrera Black	17T	£54,995
95N	911 Carrera Black	22T	£55,995*
96N	911 Carrera S Blue	10T	£64,995*
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95P	C200 Eleg Auto Azurite, mushroom cloth, r/c	12T	£23,995
95N	C180 Elegance Auto Blue black, grey cloth, r/c	45T	£19,995
96P	C180 Elegance Auto Tourmaline, grey, a/c, r/c	10T	£22,995
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96P	C180 Elegance Auto Silver, blue, a/con, r/c	12T	£22,995
96N	C200 Eleg Auto Tourmaline, m/room cloth, a/c	17T	£23,995
96N	C220 Elegance Auto Green blk, hide, a/c, eds	17T	£26,995
96N	C230 Sport Estate Man Green blk, black cloth	22T	£23,995
93K	200TE Auto Pearl blue, grey cloth, esr	60T	£17,995
94M	E200 Auto Imperial red, grey, esr, efw	29T	£18,995
95N	E200 SE Auto Blue black, grey cloth	11T	£20,995
96N	E200T Classic Auto Silver, black, rls, esr	5T	£21,995
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96P	S320 Az blue m/hide, efs, bls, c.aids, esr, 3tl, r/sl	7T	£45,995
96P	S280 Tourmaline m/hide, clm, 15h, hls, esr, r/sl	16T	£37,995
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95N	E320 Eleg Az m/hide, air, esr, blw, 3hr, lm, r/sl	8T	£36,995
95N	E320 Eleg B silver b/hide, air, esr, blw, lm, r/st	13T	£36,995
96P	E200 Eleg Est Auto Tourmaline, rear seat, lm	4T	£31,595
97P	E280 Elegance Onyx b/hide, air, r/sl	4T	£36,995
96P	E280 Avantgarde Green black, esr, clm, r/sl	13T	£38,995
96P	E280 Elegance Auto Green black, 8h, air	6T	£31,995
97P	E280 Elegance Auto Azurite, hlw, r/sl	11T	£28,995
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96P	E320 Eleg Auto Bornite, esr, 8h x 2 + rn to ds, cd	3T	£34,995
97P	E200 Eleg Auto Tourmaline, 5spd, air, cd, 3hr	10T	£28,995
94M	E200 Eleg Auto Az, esr, mest, rhr, 2sab, alarm	26T	£19,595
95M	E280 Auto B silver, esr, wal, r/sl, rhr, ew x 4	42T	£18,595
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96P	C280 Eleg Auto Vivanite m/hide, cd, spoiler	9T	£32,995
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97P	C230 Eleg Auto B silver, air, spec alloys, r/sl	5T	£28,995
95M	C200 Eleg Auto B silver, esr, spoiler, r/sl	22T	£21,595
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94M	C180 Eleg Auto Midnight Blue, grey, 1 owner	47T	£17,995
95N	C180 Eleg Auto Tourmaline, mush, 1 owner	10T	£20,995
96N	C180 Eleg Auto Green-black cloth, air con	15T	£20,995
97P	C180 Auto Aqua blue, grey cloth, esr, demo	6T	£21,995
96N	C180 Eleg Auto Smoke silver, mushroom cloth	10T	£22,350
96P	C180 Eleg Auto Green black, grey cloth, a/c	14T	£22,995
96P	C180 Eleg Auto Tourmaline, mush cloth, a/c	12T	£22,995
95M	C200 Eleg Auto Red, grey cloth, dsr, cd	21T	£21,495
96P	C200 Auto Midnight blue, blue cloth, esr, efw	13T	£22,995
97P	C200 Sport Auto Metallic, hide, gsr, demo	11T	£26,995
95M	C220 Diesel Elegance Auto Silver, Black, 8sw	18T	£20,995
96P	C230 Komp Sport 5 Spd Auto Imperial red, blk	12T	£26,995
96P	C250 Diesel Elegance Auto Silver, black cloth	5T	£24,495
96P	C280 Elegance 5 Spd Auto Tourmaline green	8T	£28,995
92K	200TE Auto White, blue cloth, esr, ew, 7seats	35T	£16,995
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93L	E220 Cpe Nautic blue, mush hide, air con, 8sw	11T	£24,995
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96P	E320 Avantgarde Silver, grey hide, air con	11T	£38,995
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97P	C180 Sport Auto Green black, lar, cd	4T	£22,995
96P	C200 Sport Auto Silver, blk cloth, esr, cd, towbar	9T	£23,995
97P	C200 Sport Estate Auto Vivanite, lar, ew, cd	10T	£27,495
95N	C220 Sport Auto Ruby, esr, lar	17T	£23,995
96P	C220D Classic Auto Silver, black cloth, esr	12T	£23,995
97P	C250TD Eleg Auto Silver, black cloth, esr, ew, cd	4T	£25,995
97P	E200 Classic Auto Azurite, grey cloth, esr, lar	7T	£27,495
95N	E200 Algarde Auto Azurite, hide, alrn, rsws, esr	17T	£27,995
97P	E230 Classic Auto Green black, alloys, CD	5T	£28,995
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96P	E230 Est Eleg Auto Grn blk, C-VAT, ac, music	2T	£33,995
96P	E280 Est Eleg Auto Silver, C-VAT, ac, music	7T	£33,995
94M	E220 Cab Auto Silver, 8h, bls, cd	16T	£37,995
95M	E220 Cab Auto Blue blk, black hide, rls, 8h	18T	£37,995
97P	E280 Algarde Silver, hide, air, 18"AMG alloys	6T	£38,995
93K	300SL 24V Silver, hide, air, rcs, efs, 8h	33T	£46,995
96P	SL280 Silver, black hide, rcs, hww, cd	15T	£59,995
97P	SL280 Azurite, mushroom hide, rls, etc, cd, hww	2T	£58,995
97P	SL320 Tour Grn, mush hide, 8h, rls, cruise	4T	£64,995
95M	SL500 Tourmaline, mushroom, etc, cc, 8h	22T	£64,995
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97P	C230 Sport Komp met, hide, ar, eds, cd	10T	£31,995
97P	C250D Elegance Auto met, r/sl, c/c, srs	10T	£25,995
92K	190E 2.0 Auto met, 8 holes, esr, r/sl	47T	£14,995
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95M	E220T Auto rls, esr, ew, r/st, tex	33T	£25,995
95M	E320 Auto met, hide, r/st	29T	£27,995
96N	E320 Elegance Auto ar, hlw, cc, alloys, r/st	18T	£34,995
97P	E320 Elegance Auto met, hide, ar, r/st	5T	£41,995
94L	E320 Auto met, hide, ar, cc, 8 holes, eds, cd	34T	£27,995
97P	V230 Ambiente Auto met, hide, air, cc, s/r	8T	£27,995
95N	S280 Auto met, hide, acc, esr, r/st	18T	£35,995
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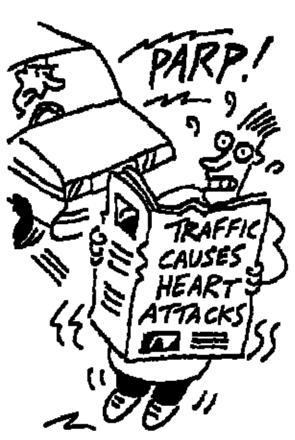

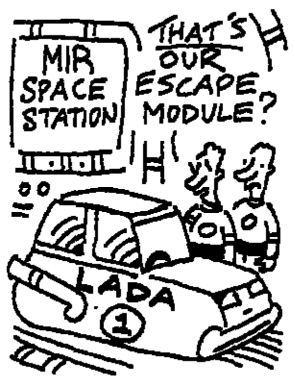

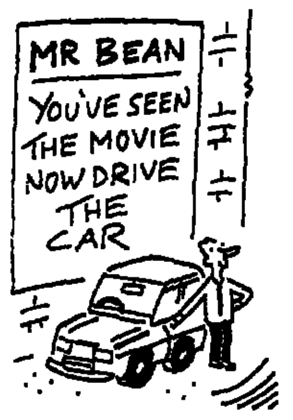
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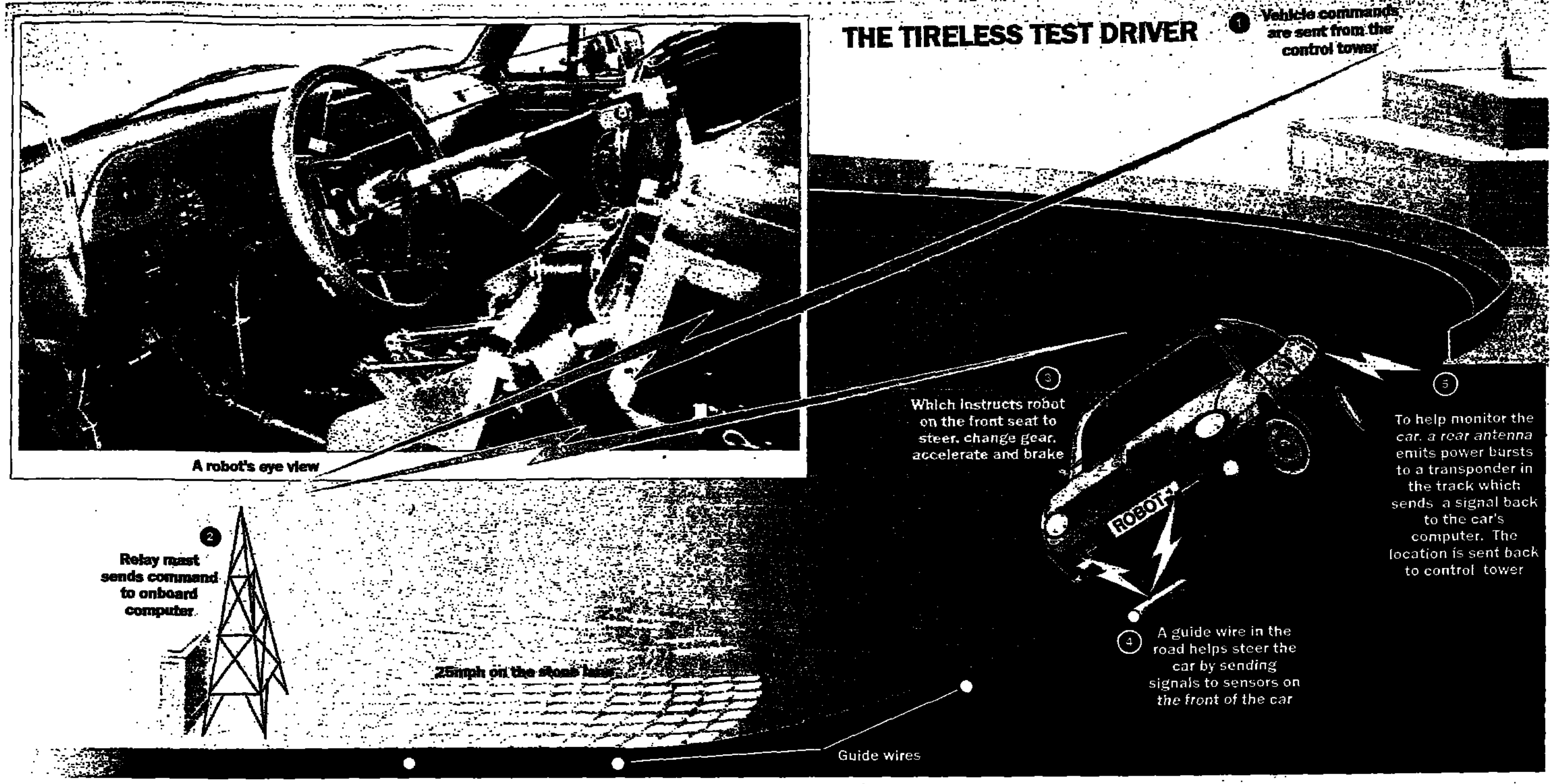

THE TIRELESS TEST DRIVER
1 Vehicle commands are sent from the control tower
2 Relay mast sends command to onboard computer
3 Which instructs robot on the front seat to steer, change gear, accelerate and brake
4 A guide wire in the road helps steer the car by sending signals to sensors on the front of the car
5 To help monitor the car, a rear antenna emits power bursts to a transponder in the track which sends a signal back to the car's computer. The location is sent back to control tower
A robot's eye view
25mph on the stone lane
Guide wires
ROBOT

Wrecker robots are an auto's mate

Chrysler's computerised drivers are discovering what its new cars can stand, reports **Kevin Eason**

They never complain about the long hours nor whinge that every bump and pothole sends a quiver down their spines like a tuning fork.

These are the drivers developing the cars of the future for Chrysler — a small army of robots driving on an electronically controlled circuit more like a Scalextric track than a motorway.

America's third-biggest carmaker is radically shortening development times by handing over the most arduous testing to robot drivers which pound round a circuit so demanding that 2,500 miles is the equivalent of 100,000 on normal roads.

The 1.3-mile circuit cost $12 million to build and is the only one like it in the world, though it is undoubtedly the forerunner for carmakers desperately seeking easier and quicker ways to shake out faults from upcoming models.

Designing and making a car is only the first step; it is in the hundreds of thousands of miles of development driving that components are tested, sometimes to destruction. Rattles, squeaks, poor fitting, parts not up to the job are all sought out in that vital period which can take years and require test teams journeying halfway around the world. They drive through deserts and over Artic wastes — in the cause of making sure the car that reaches the showrooms can tootle to the shops without a blip.

At best, European carmakers need about two years to complete the task, but the race is on to equal or beat the 18 months claimed by some Japanese manufacturers between the car leaving the drawing board and being parked on the drive.

Chrysler's robotised test circuit will help, by allowing engineers to put cars through hour after hour of rigorous examination without the need for finding test drivers willing to put their bodies through a pounding that would make even Michael Schumacher wince.

Robots test cars harder and longer than humans, but they don't know when to stop

The circuit track at Chrysler's proving ground in Chelsea, Michigan, is divided into two lanes: a smooth, ashphalt track and a harsh cobblestone surface, intermittently dotted with severe potholes and simulated rail tracks.

Sue Cischke, Chrysler's general manager of scientific laboratories and proving grounds, says: "Our drivers can last only four hours a day on these roads. Imagine hitting a head-tossing pothole every five feet for hours on end. Needless to say, we don't have a lot of test drivers who relish that job.

She adds: "But a robot can be programmed to take that kind of punishment all day long, through the night and in all kinds of weather. It will run the same course over and over. It won't be tempted to lift off the accelerator or swerve to avoid a particularly nasty pothole.

"We think we can take testing time down from six weeks to less than two weeks and that's a huge advantage in our ever-shrinking product cycle time. We can also improve the consistency of our tests, reduce the time our drivers are exposed to harsh conditions and increase the time they are available to drive on less severe roads."

The test circuit has two guide wires embedded in the track surface. Two sensors mounted in the front of the test car pick up frequencies from the guide wires and relay their messages to a computer in the driver's seat; the closer the coil gets to the guide wire, the higher the voltage; so when the voltage in, say, the right-hand side sensor is too strong, the computer knows it is drifting off course and corrects the steering.

The computer corrects course and speed, instructing mechanical arms and feet as it travels at speeds up to 45mph while as many as nine vehicles on the circuit at one time are monitored from a traffic control tower — manned by real people who view the action through a system of cameras around the circuit.

Models such as the Neon and Jeep Cherokee were tested this way, required to drive mile after monotonous mile as engineers waited to see if each component would pass its severest examination. Every component has to be tested through at least 100,000 miles, but it can take six weeks or more for human test drivers to get through mileages that high. Now body and chassis engineers can get on with other work while the robots bump and grind their way to destruction.

The robots have only one failing so far, which is that they cannot pick up on faults that motorists would spot in an instant. The robots will drive on whether something breaks or not, even if the passenger cabin fills with smoke from an electrical short or the car starts shaking itself to bits. Chrysler is developing a new set of sensors with a "human touch" that will spot those kind of faults immediately and alert engineers in the control tower.

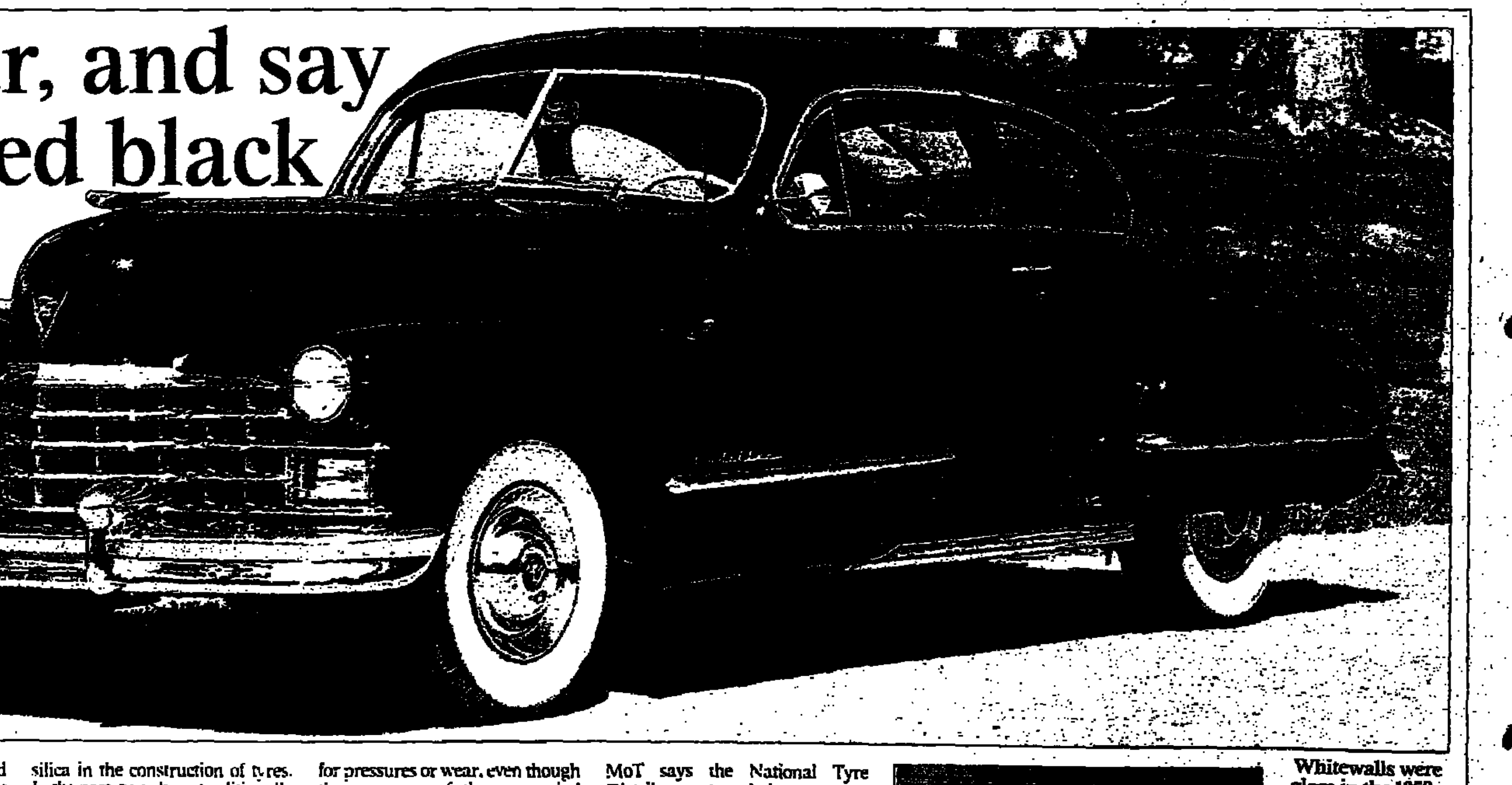
The Chrysler circuit is also giving engineers a fast learning curve on the development of so-called automated highways, roads on which cars will be guided in electronic convoy without the need for motorists to touch the controls.

The world's first automated highway went into experimental service in California last month aimed at being used by ordinary motorists by the year 2002. But, Chrysler's team believes there are too many glitches for the system to work successfully for some time yet, though each mile its robots cover adds to the sum of knowledge on technology that is destined to become a feature of everyday motoring in the next century.

Maybe then, you could pack the kids into the Neon and off to school with nanny driving ... a robot nanny that is guided all the way to the gates by wire.

Roll on colour, and say goodbye tired black

Grab your shades — Michelin man's gone psychedelic, reports Vaughan Freeman



For the first 100 years of the car, manufacturers have offered motorists little or no choice when it came to the colour of their tyres, the alternatives traditionally limited only to a narrow range of black.

All that is changing now with the launch of a gaudy range of tyres from Michelin featuring fire-engine red, enviro-friendly green and sunburst yellow.

Michelin believes younger drivers, bored with the tedious black tyres on the corners of their metallic or pearlescent multi-hued cars, are itching to switch to tyres that, like the perfectly matched handbag, will harmonise with their car's colour.

It is not the first time the automotive industry has tried to jazz up the humble tyre. Once, the whitewall was the ultimate in tyre chic, a rubber fashion statement first seen on finned and chromed American cars of the 1950s and 1960s and which was then adopted by wannabee glamour cars from Britain.

Today the whitewall tyre is long since dead, and seen only in demure guise on Rolls-Royces. Michelin believes its coloured tyres, likely to be seen in Britain next year and being trialled in limited numbers now in France, German and Italy, will prove to be the "in" thing for the fashion-conscious motorist.

Michelin's Coraldo range features highly visible colours in the sidewall of the tyres, as well as the tread, and because the colour is not a dye but formed in the rubber of the tyre, the colour never wears out. Indeed, the tyre's wear only freshens the colour.

Michelin spokesman Alan Abercrombie says: "The tyres are aimed at drivers who might buy cars with colour-coordinated bumpers, and younger drivers who would want their tyres to harmonise or contrast with the colour they have chosen for their car.

"The tyres would also be useful for motor manufacturers who want to make a special-edition car and might be looking to colour-coordinate the wheels with the car's body colour. By offering the Coraldo range in Rio Yellow, Etna Red and Nordik Green, we hope most tastes will be catered for."

The tyres come in only two sizes to fit small and medium cars, and are aimed at motorists likely to buy "fun" cars like the Ford Ka, Peugeot 106 or Renault Clio, and who are also likely to be younger than drivers of larger family saloons and estates.

Coloured tyres have become possible only in the past four or five years with the introduction of silica in the construction of tyres. In the past, tyres have traditionally used carbon black with the rubber. Carbon black, which gives tyres their distinctive and tedious shade, protects the tyre rubber from ultra violet light which hardens rubber and makes it brittle.

The use in tyre construction of silica, which also protects the tyre rubber from ageing, means that tyres can be made in any colour without any compromise in safety or performance, because silica comes in a neutral pigment.

While the coloured tyres will cost slightly more than their dreary all-black counterparts, the hope is that harlequin hues on a car's four corners will have the welcome side-effect of increasing a driver's awareness of his or her tyres and so increase safety. Tyres are notoriously overlooked, and few drivers regularly check them for pressures or wear, even though they are one of the most vital components on a vehicle.

Abercrombie says: "It seems strange that motorists will spend hundreds of pounds on a hi-fi system for their car, yet, because tyres are a distress purchase, resent spending money on tyres. A £30 petrol fill-up at the garage will take most cars 300 or 400 miles, yet a £30 tyre will take a car 30,000 miles."

Every year millions of cars fail their MOT because of faulty tyres, and in August and September alone it is estimated some 600,000 cars will have to retake the test because of faults with their tyres.

Tyres with worn tread, damage, nicks and bulges are one of the main causes of motorists facing the disappointment of a failed MoT says the National Tyre Distributors Association.

NTDA president Tony Cooke says: "We know that one in ten of cars will fail to meet the MoT's legal requirements for tyres."

The most common causes of tyre failure are insufficient tread depth — the law requires a minimum of 1.6mm — poor puncture repairs, irregular tread wear, sidewall splits, cuts and bulges.

Now the NTDA's 2,500 centres are offering free tyre inspections aimed at spotting tyre problems before motorists enter their cars for an MoT. Cooke says: "The great pity is that literally millions of pounds are being wasted by motorists paying re-test fees and travelling to new appointments when a free, five-minute tyre inspection would have identified both the problem and the most appropriate solution."

Whitewalls were glam in the 1950s, but eventually the fad died a death

Will colour make drivers take more notice of their rubber? One in ten cars now fails to meet the MoT requirements for tyre safety

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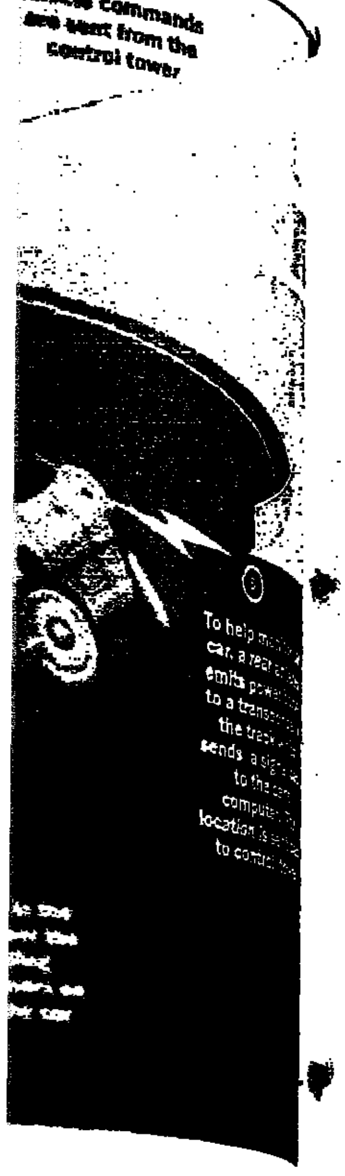

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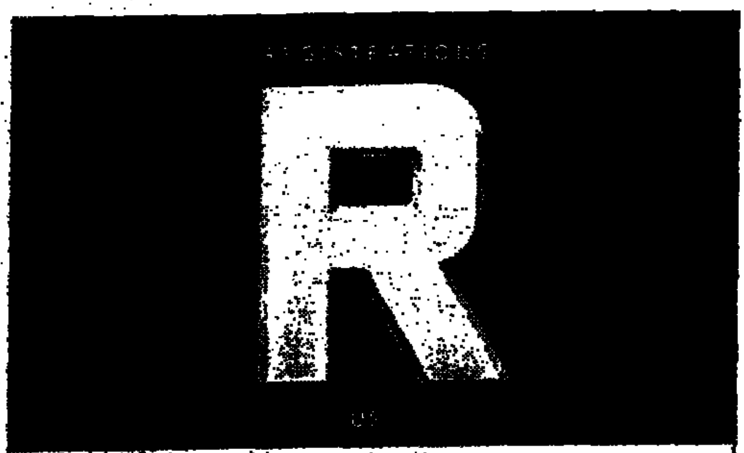

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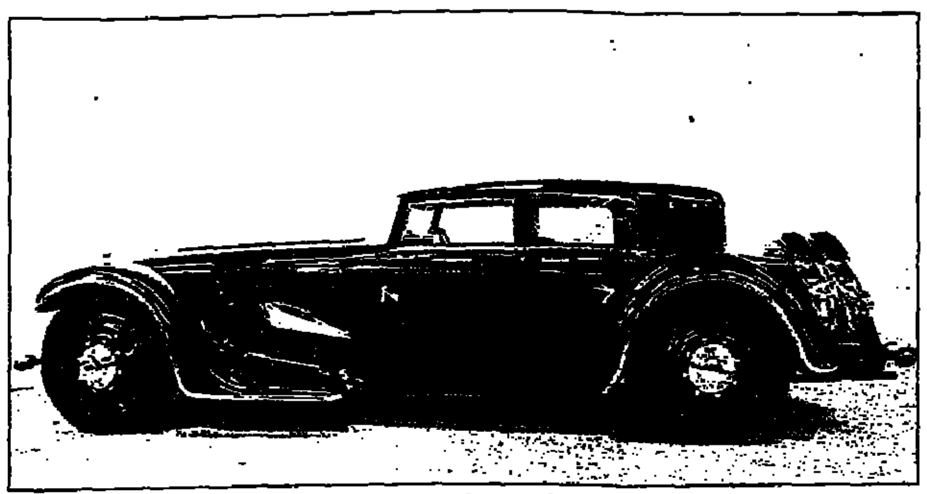
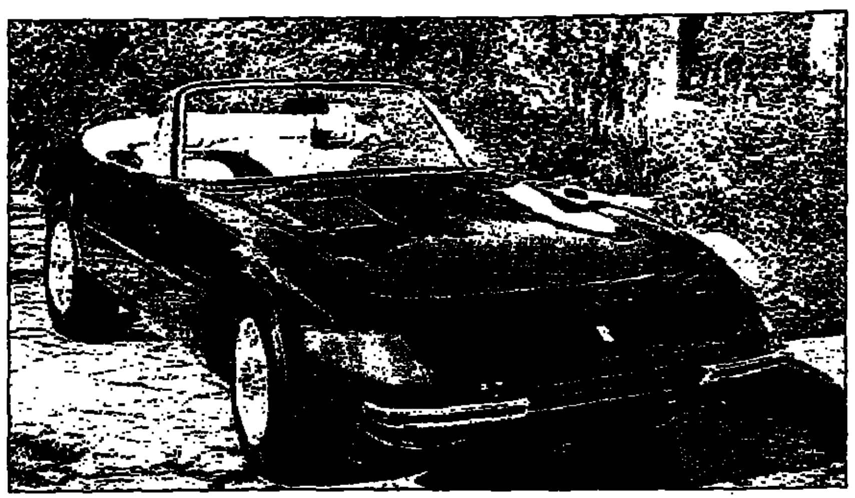


One of the world's largest and rarest cars: the 1932 Bucciali TAV 12 is nearly 20ft long



There are three Ferrari Daytona Spyders. One is the best Christie's has seen

So, what's up for auction, doc?

Mel Blanc's rare cars are for sale, says **Alan Copps**

What would you do if you'd earned a fortune making people laugh? Mel Blanc, the voice behind a legion of cartoon characters — from the crafty *Bugs Bunny* to the absurd Daffy Duck and from the shrieking Woody Woodpecker to Fred Flintstone's faithful foil Barney Rubble — indulged his other great passion in life: cars.

The collection of automobiles he ammassed with his son Noel was almost as varied as the bizarre assortment of creatures to whom he gave life. At Noel's home in Beverley Hills, the cars were meticulously maintained in a purpose-built showroom with a dust-free, temperature controlled environment, high security precautions and decorated with specially commissioned automotive art.

They included some of the finest American sports cars, but the main focus was on Ferraris. When they started the collection in the early eighties both men spent months tracking down the finest examples available. Now bitten by a new bug for hot rods and custom cars, Noel Blanc, who has continued the family business after his father's death, is selling some of the cars.

They are among the stars of Christie's auction at the legendary Pebble Beach gathering in California next weekend. The sale coincides with America's biggest historic race meeting and with what is arguably the most resplendent *concours d'elegance* in the world. It includes at least three vehicles expected to raise more than a million dollars.

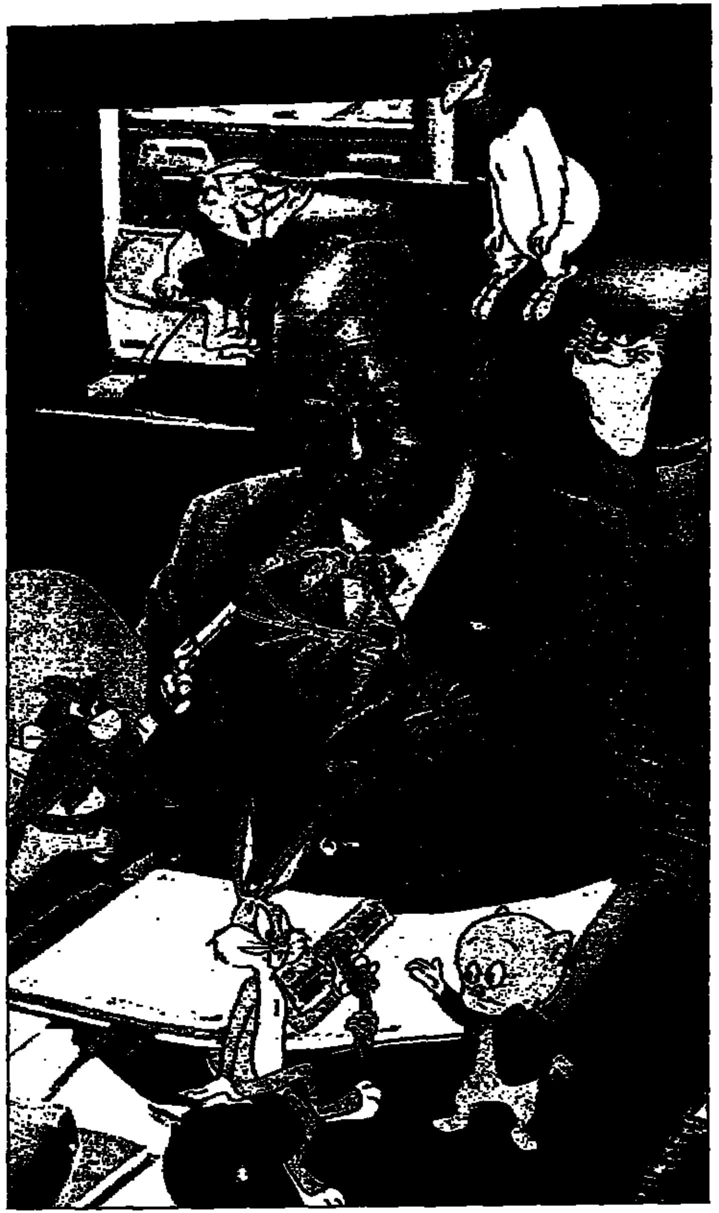
"Noel Blanc has turned his attention to hot rods and admits these cars no longer get the attention and driving they deserve. Because he's a perfectionist he's decided to sell them now while they are still in pristine condition," says Miles Morris of Christie's International cars department. "For example, the condition of the best of three Ferrari Daytonas, a black 1973 365 GTS/4 is quite unbelievable. It's the best Christie's has ever seen. It's almost certainly better than when Enzo Ferrari sold the car."

The Daytona Spyder was one of those Ferraris that instantly became a collector's item. The car in question has done just 3,427 miles from new and the catalogue recounts how it caught Noel Blanc's eye in Beverley Hills one day. He followed it home, asked the owner to name his price and it changed hands on the spot. Its estimate now is $375,000 (£234,000) to $475,000 (£296,000).

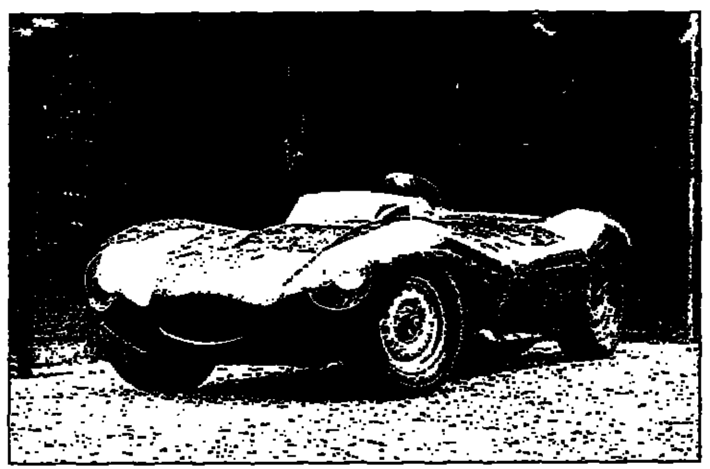
Another gem from the Blanc collection is a 1957 Ford Thunderbird "F" — the supercharged version of one of the most famous American sports cars. The specification is a reminder of just how long some of the "new" features now being fitted to cars have been around in the States. The factory-fitted options include power seats, electric windows and a radio that automatically increases its volume in proportion to engine speed. Its estimate is $70,000 to $90,000 (£43,000 to £56,000).

The sale also includes one of the largest and rarest cars on the road anywhere. A Bucciali TAV 12 dating from 1932, one of only three known survivors of a marque that rivalled Bugatti, Hispano Suiza, Isotta Fraschini and other grand exotica of the inter-war years, is described as "conceivably the first dream car". Nearly 20ft long and 6½ft wide, this front-wheel drive, V12-engined leviathan with its huge 24inch wheels and low-slung Saoutchik coachwork is one of the most imposing cars ever produced.

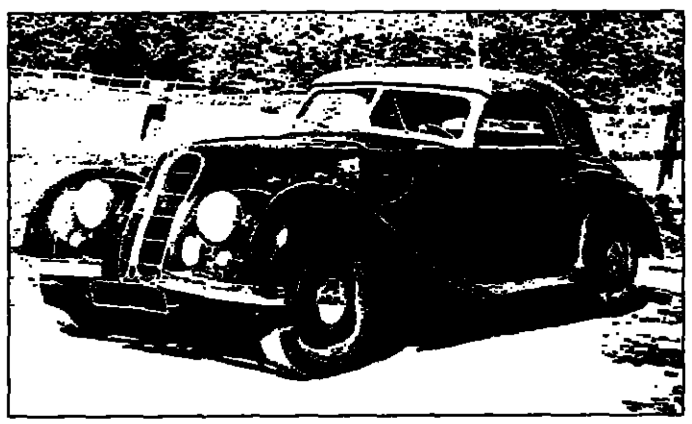
Together with one of the most original Jaguar D-Types ever offered for sale, the Ferrari Mille Miglia Spyder in which Mike Hawthorn won the 1953 *Daily Express* Trophy at Silverstone, a Rolls-Royce that once belonged to Frank Sinatra and and a host of other rarities, the cars make up an auction that could raise up to $12 million.



Famous cartoon voice Mel Blanc was a car-collecting fanatic



This original D-Type Jaguar could fetch $1 million



The 1938 BMW was driven by von Ribbentrop around London

BMW: one dreadful owner

A 1938 BMW with a small part in history returns home for a sale of classic cars at the Nurburgring circuit in Germany today.

The blue 327 sports tourer was delivered new to Joachim von Ribbentrop, Hitler's ambassador in London. It was seen around town on his visits to the Foreign Office until he returned to become Germany's wartime Foreign Secretary.

Ribbentrop was hanged at Nuremburg in 1946. His car has passed through three postwar owners and carries a broad £28,000-£41,000 estimate at a Brooks auction.

The sale coincides with the silver jubilee of the Oldtimer Grand Prix at the Nurburgring, home of the German Grand Prix from 1927 to 1969.

Another prewar classic set for a top price is a striking 1930 red Mercedes, a 7.1-litre supercharged SS sports tourer estimated between £450,000-£500,000.

It was delivered to a "Mr M. Scott" with anecdotal evidence suggesting he may have been Major George Scott, a pilot of the ill-fated airship, *R101*, which crashed in 1930.

A 1953 3.4-litre restored Jaguar C-type which had a trouble-free run in the Mille Miglia retrospective runs in 1995 and 1996 is a little more expensive at £333,000.

The auction also features famous Formula One racers, including the James Hunt/Jacky Ickx 1975-6 3-litre Hesketh Cosworth at about £21,000.

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I don't like Mondays

The closure of its weekly cattle market has destroyed the character of a Dorset town, Jane McCarthy writes

Mondays have changed for the people of Sturminster Newton, in the heart of Thomas Hardy country in Dorset. The High Street, where banks, accountants and solicitors sit alongside the antique shops and rare booksellers that are typical of such market towns, is quieter than before. Stallholders in the cheese market are grumbling about relocating their award-winning Sturminster Newton Cheddar, and Women's Institute ladies are down-hearted about the fate of their stalls.

Despondency fell on Sturminster at the end of June with the disappearance of the 700-year-old livestock market, which has taken place in the centre of town every Monday for as long as anybody can remember. It was the market that brought Sturminster alive week after week.

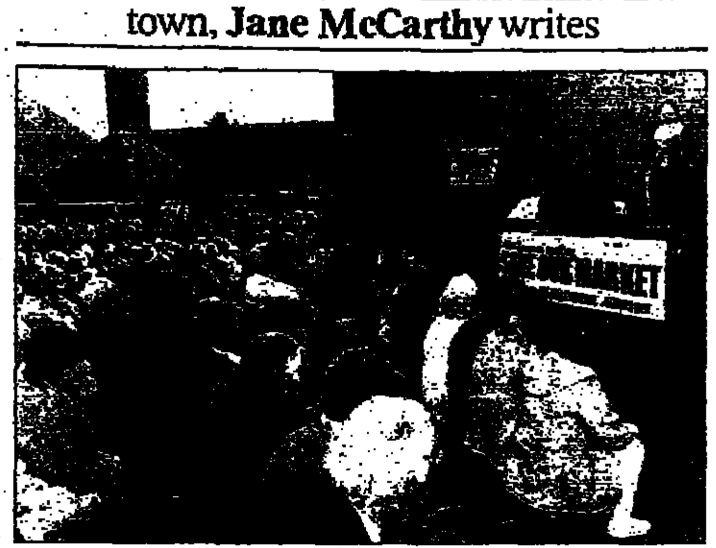
It is not just the fact that the market has gone that saddens people. What inflames them is that the blow to their community has come from an anonymous group of businessmen, whose offshore company, Sturminster Holdings, is registered in the Virgin Islands.

Sturminster Holdings bought the site in 1989 with a view to developing it into a supermarket and housing, and served them with a notice to quit this June.

The market brought regular Monday trade for the town. A cheese market sprang up and the Women's Institute set up stalls — both are disappointed they now have to go. David Fox, the town council chairman, sums up the mood as one of anger and frustration: "There is a feeling of impotence. We don't know who we're dealing with."

Matthew Price, secretary of the local National Farmers Union, agrees: "A part of Dorset's agricultural heritage is being lost and we seem powerless to have any influence." He recalls the day in the middle of June when a notice to quit was served to the market operators, Premier Livestock Auctions. "It felt like a member of the family had died. It was a necessary and valuable facility for farmers and we mourn its loss."

Across Britain, livestock markets are under threat as never before. Commercial property developers want the prime town-centre sites that they occupy. Animal welfare campaigners have forced expensive changes on auctioneers and reduced trade in live-animal exports. And on top of this there is BSE to contend with. The number of cattle sold through markets in 1995 was 2.5 million; in 1996, 300,000 fewer were auctioned, and the figure this year is likely to be lower still.



A strong campaign failed to save Sturminster market

Developers told the Women's Institute to move elsewhere

The market in King's Lynn closed recently; Cirencester's is under threat; and the story of Sturminster Newton is likely to be repeated across the country.

Sturminster is in north Dorset's Blackmore Vale — one of the most intensive dairy farming areas in the European Union — and its calf market was once the largest in Britain. Dorset — the county with the highest milk yield in Britain — sustains just one cattle market, in Shaftesbury, but that site is also being sought for a supermarket.

Mr Price has learnt from experience not to believe all the reassuring noises being made in Shaftesbury about relocating that market. It seems, he says grimly, that it will stay closed.

Eight years ago, when the land (which was privately owned) came up for sale, estate agents described it as "an exciting opportunity to acquire a substantial commercial investment, with redevelopment potential for commercial and residential purposes, in the heart of a popular country town".

The 7.5-acre site had been let since 1906 to the Senior family, who became the estate agents and auctioneers Senior & Godwin. But the lease expired in early 1990 and attempts to extend it failed. The market was allowed to continue on a series of short-term leases and the community mounted a campaign to save its livestock market.

Feelings ran high, with emotional pleas for "the heart of our town" ringing through the pages of the local and national press. Eighteen months ago North Dorset District Council also put together a bid of £950,000 to take over the site and secure the future of the market. But it failed and Premier Livestock Auctions limped from one month to the next, with rumours and uncertainty adding to the problems of a trade already in decline.

Two weeks notice was given by the new landlords Sturminster Holdings, and on June 30 the last cattle market was held in Sturminster Newton.

Campaigners have not given up. Richard Johnston of the Sturminster Newton Action Group claims that two Royal Charters, one of which was signed in 1496 by Henry VII, granted permission for a weekly livestock market in the town: "I have been advised that to go against a Royal Charter when it has been in force for 500 years or more is an act of treason."

Despite the massive campaign, most people accept that the battle is lost to maintain a market of this size, though they are fighting for a smaller, more modern one.

Nigel Jones, the agent representing Sturminster Holdings, is bearing the brunt of public outrage but resolutely defends the company's position.

He says: "I don't know why people are trying to muddy the water," he says. "There is nothing untoward in any of this. My clients bought the site for £672,500 and their objectives have always been clear, although legal complications have prevented them from carrying these out. This is a business venture and we want to maximise its value. Times have moved on and, regrettably, markets in smaller towns can no longer be economically run."

Try telling that to the Women's Institute or the cheesemen. For generations, countryfolk and farmers have travelled to market and used it as an opportunity to air their grievances and catch up on gossip.

Tom Fox, whose family has farmed nearby for 80 years, recalls: "It was a place to meet friends and hear Dorset dialects. There was a lot of humour and leg-pulling."

As a member of the local museum society, he has salvaged what history he can from the site — the original bell and auctioneer's signal pole.

JOHN REDMAN

Livestock markets across Britain are under threat from developers and animal welfare campaigners

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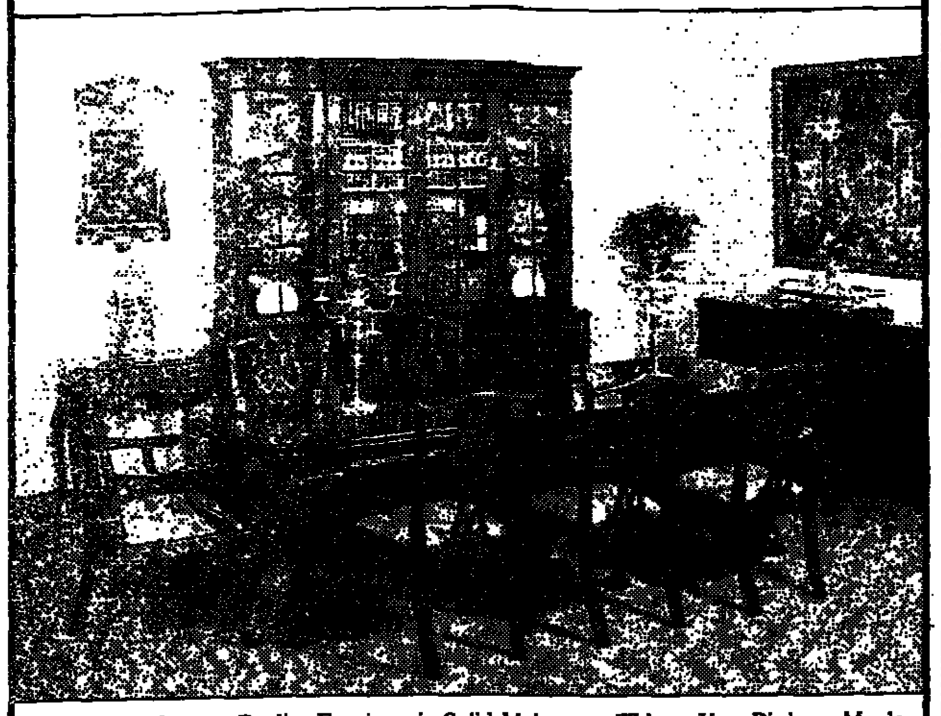

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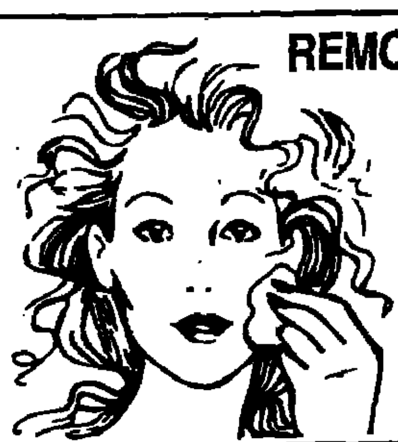

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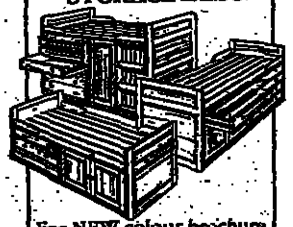

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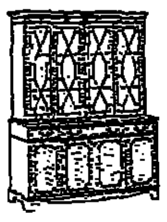

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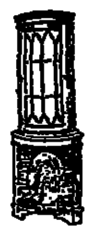

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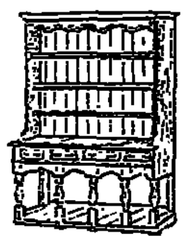

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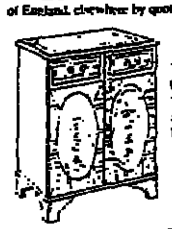

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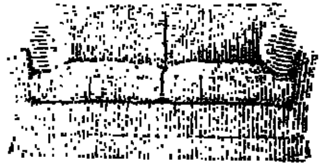

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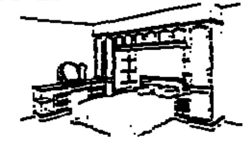

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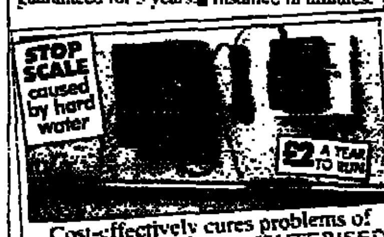

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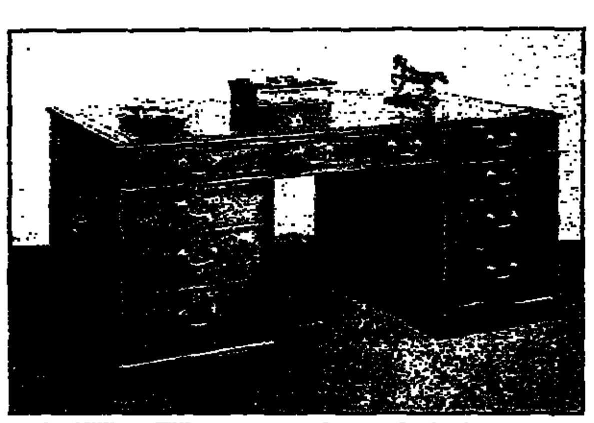

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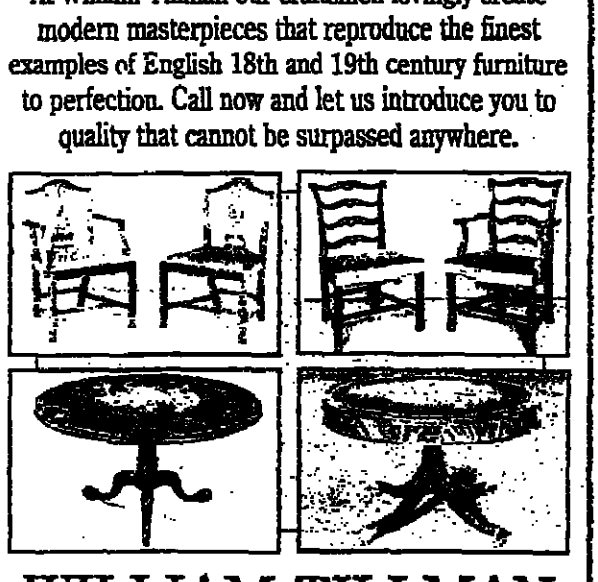

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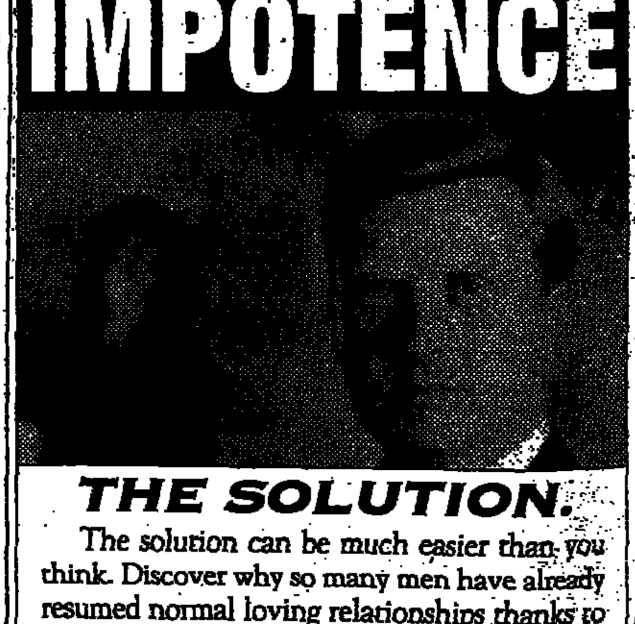

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Almost as good as a birthday gun

The eighth wonder of the world is nothing compared to the thrill of a hunt for a small boy

Take a four-year-old boy, place him on a spray-drenched outcrop facing Victoria Falls, point out the majesty of the mile-wide waterfall thundering into a gorge only feet away from his small, amazed face, direct his wondering eyes to the rainbows bursting through the clouds of mist rising high into the blue African sky and then say: "Well, what do you think of that?"

After a pause during which the boy solemnly scans the eighth wonder of the world, the response is spoken with conviction: "Dad, can I have a real gun for my birthday?" As ever with children, there is a line of logic here.

Early that morning we had stumbled from our beds at a small lodge in the bush a few miles from the falls to be driven by a guide called Elliot across the railway line that Rhodes once dreamt would link Capetown to Cairo.

Once across the rail, the bush, thickened and greened by an extended rainy season, closed around us like fog. Elliot had a big .375 rifle and, as he loaded copper-jacketed rounds into the breach, it was clear that nothing the children would see that day would match the sight of our hunter and his very real gun.

As the sunlight began to splinter through the trees we tracked the spoor of elephant, hippo and buffalo in the grey powdery earth of small paths and clearings. The deep round prints of the elephant and the smaller, cloven hoof-marks of the buffalo were fresh. But it was the dung of both animals, warm and soft to the touch (hunters make you handle these things — the children, of course, loved doing so), that told us how close we were to big game. The hippo, which will travel miles from their river in search of food at night, had long returned to the Zambezi. But the elephant and buffalo were close enough to remind us, as we peered hopelessly into the bush, that no one had had breakfast.

JAMES McMANUS

Nicholas, four, and Elizabeth, six, with their hero, Elliot

Elliot pointed to a livid scar running from his thigh to calf and said that buffalo had killed more professional hunters in Africa than any other animal. Six months previously he had almost joined the list after a surprise charge in this very area.

Breakfast suddenly seemed of overriding importance. There were no arguments as we returned to the Land Rover and bumped our way back to a hilltop lodge, whose main single-storey building opened onto wide verandas, giving a 360-degree view over miles of the Zambezi national park.

The style was turn-of-the-century colonial, with corrugated iron roofs, ceiling fans, iron bedsteads and even those old-fashioned baths with ball and claw feet in the two honeymoon suites. This is Sekuti's Drift, named after a chieftain who ruled over hundreds of square miles north and south of the Zambezi river in the early years of the century.

Although the tsetse fly, which was the chief's principal ally against the white pioneer columns, has long gone, the malarial mosquito remains, and so we obediently took our daily Paludrine at breakfast. This was a bore and one which persisted three weeks after the end of our holiday, but it was a small price to pay for the pleasure of a family safari.

Sekuti takes a maximum of 20 guests in ten rooms. The food, which is a huge improvement on the usual safari camp heart-attack fry-up, is served at a long communal dining table. There is a large open fireplace, a teak-topped long bar and a library which, among the usual Africana, includes such rarities as a first edition of the collected short stories of William Sansom.

What makes this lodge different from many others in Zimbabwe is that it provides the experience of a remote bush camp only 20 minutes' drive from the fast-growing resort of Victoria Falls. So you can, as we did, hear the roar of a lion signalling his desire for a mate only yards from your bedroom window, you can follow Elliot into the virgin bush at dawn, and you can relive the colonial dream on the veranda at night (too much whisky under too many stars), all within reach of the gaudy delights of the falls.

Sadly, what they say about the falls is true. Collusion between a cash-strapped government and a greedy tourist industry has put too many sundowner cruises on the broad stretch of the Zambezi above the falls and too many helicopters and microlite aircraft into the airspace over the resort, which is now crowded with too many hotels.

But at the turn of the century, exactly 40 years after David Livingstone reported the existence of the falls to the outside world, the local press was making very much the same complaints. Then, as now, consolation can be found in the luxury of the Victoria Falls Hotel, a magnificent pile whose terrace looks out over the wildly improbable railway bridge arching over the Zambezi gorge linking Zimbabwe with Zambia.

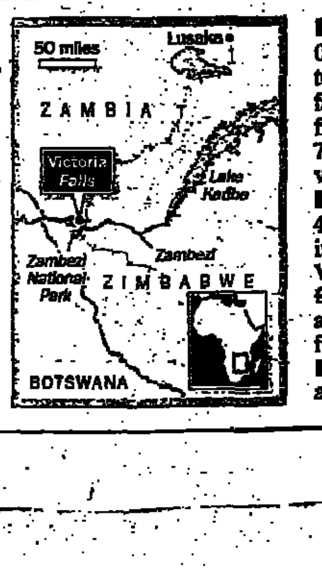
As for the falls, the largest single curtain of falling water in the world retains its age-old powers of astonishment — unless you happen to be a four-year-old boy.

JAMES McMANUS

FINANCIAL TIMES

Victoria Falls, between Zimbabwe and Zambia, is a mile wide and the largest single sheet of water in the world

FACT FILE



■ Air Zimbabwe (0171-491 0009) has four flights weekly to Harare with published fares from £1,066, flying from Gatwick. KLM (0990 750900) has fares from £556 via Amsterdam.

■ Africa Connection (01244 400994) can arrange itineraries to include the Victoria Falls Hotel, from £115 per person for B&B, and Sekuti's Drift, from £138 full board.

■ The cheapest time to buy a package holiday is between January and March. Africa Connection offers seven nights B&B at the Victoria Falls Hotel, international and internal flights and transfers from £1,580 per person. Seven nights at Sekuti's Drift costs from £1,695.

■ Vaccinations against typhoid, tetanus, polio and hepatitis A, and malaria pills are all necessary. Innoculations for rabies, diphtheria, hepatitis B and meningitis may be required, depending on areas visited.

■ For further information: Zimbabwe Tourist Office (0171-240 6169).

■ The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Survivor's Song*, by Mark and Delia Owens (HarperCollins, £8.99); *David Livingstone & The Victorian Encounter with Africa* (National Portrait Gallery, £22).

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Exploration by river is, without doubt, the most comfortable and relaxing way to see Egypt and particularly when one is fortunate enough to travel on one of the smaller vessels of the first class Thomas Cook Egypt fleet. With a party size of forty to fifty travellers the atmosphere on board is more akin to a private yacht.

However, the best feature of such a small party is the speed and ease at which we can move around the sites, embark and disembark. On larger vessels so much time can be wasted whilst one or two hundred passengers queue to land, join a coach, etc.

This 600 mile journey is unusual in that it will take you all the way from Cairo to the Nubian city of Aswan. Most river vessels cruise between Luxor and Aswan taking 4 to 7 days.

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Day 4 Cairo. Morning visit to the Roman-Byzantine fortress of Old Cairo including the Coptic Museum and St Sergius Church. Afternoon at leisure
Day 5 Cairo. Morning at leisure. Afternoon embarkation on Royal Serenade. Sail at dusk to El Wasta. Moor overnight.
Day 6 On the Nile.
Day 7 Beni Hassan. This morning explore the river cliff tombs of the Beni Hassan nobles, dating back to 2000 BC. Afternoon on the river cruising to Tel El Amarna.
Day 8 Tel El Amarna & Assiout. In the morning we will ride in tractor-wagons for the short journey to the archaeological site of Tel El Amarna and the ruins of the palace of Queen Nefertiti.
Day 9 On the Nile. Cruising the Nile to Baliana.
Day 10 Abydos & Qena. Drive through the fertile Nile Valley to Abydos, the most sacred site in Egypt to visit the Temples of Seti I and his son, Ramesses II.
Day 11 Denderah & Luxor. In the morning drive to the Temple of Hathor at Denderah. Sail on to Luxor. Afternoon visit to the magnificent temples of Karnak and Luxor. Moor overnight in Luxor.
Day 12 Luxor. An early start this morning, crossing the Nile and driving through the arid desert to the Necropolis of ancient Thebes. See the tombs of the Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings, the mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut, the Valley of the Queens and the Colossi of Memnon. Afternoon sailing to Edfu.
Day 13 Edfu, Kom Ombo & Aswan. Drive by horse and carriage to the Temple of Horus. Later cruise to Kom Ombo and visit the striking Ptolemaic Temple overlooking the Nile. Sail to Aswan and moor overnight.
Day 14 Aswan. Visit the Aswan High Dam and continue to the reconstructed Temple of Philae. In the afternoon sail across the Nile by felucca to Kitchener Island
Day 15 Abu Simbel. Early morning flight to Abu Simbel to see the reconstructed rock-hewn temple of Ramesses. Return to Aswan by air. Remainder of day at leisure.
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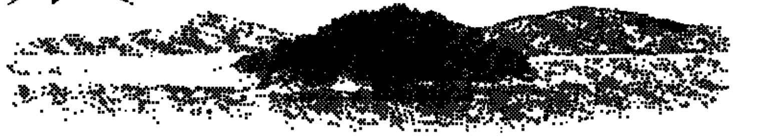
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TRAVEL CONTINUES ON PAGE 21

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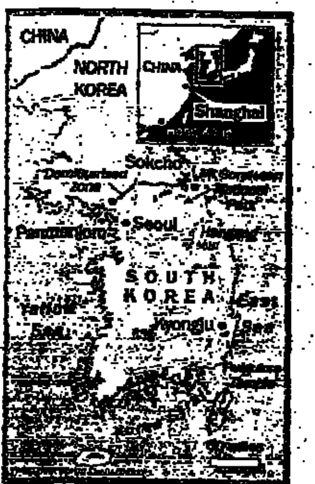
Cities of the East: A Korean war soldier goes back to Seoul; and exploring the back streets of Shanghai

For you the war is over



REUTER

South Koreans look out across the demilitarised zone at Panmunjom which has been turned into a tourist attraction complete with souvenir shops

No country in the world can have changed more dramatically in the past 40 years than South Korea. When I spent the last nine months of my National Service there in 1953-54, it was in a state of ruin following the recently ended Korean War.

That savage conflict had been preceded by 45 years of annexation and exploitation by the Japanese, ended only by Japan's defeat in the Second World War.

To return was an extraordinary experience. I remembered Seoul, the capital, as a virtually destroyed city where most products on sale seemed to be made out of spent artillery shell casings. Its population was just over one million. In the surrounding countryside, the hills had been stripped of trees by the ravages of war and people desperate for fuel.

Seoul's population is now about ten million, almost a quarter of the entire nation. The city, through which the mighty River Han flows, bristles with tower blocks and pulsates with energy.

Outside, the hills and mountains have trees again. Cattle-drawn ploughs have all but vanished from the paddy fields, replaced by machines. Korea's gross national product is now eleventh in the world.

It was a poignant moment when I found my way back to the site of my old artillery regiment. A friend from those days recalled that it lay between the River Imjin and a hill called Kamak-san. Brigadier Colin Parr, defence attaché at the British embassy in Seoul, helped me pinpoint it on his wall map, not far from the town of Choksong. There I stood next day. Hard to believe, I thought, that here I used a typewriter in the regimental office, dug monsoon ditches, slept in a tent through the bitter Korean winter and "scrambled" on exercises up near the 38th parallel and the border with North Korea. What was once our tented camp, with a minefield to the left, is now fields of ginseng.

Cold War confrontations continue as nowhere else in the world, with roughly 600,000 North Korean troops facing about 400,000 South Korean and American troops across the demarcation line. Seoul is not far from the border and the area to the north bristles with tank traps old and new.

Uniquely, however, the focal point of both confrontation and peace-seeking efforts, Panmunjom in the so-called demilitarised zone, has been turned into a tourist attraction complete with American military briefing and a souvenir shop selling everything from jewellery to chocolates.

There can be few experiences more strange than to stand in the conference room that straddles the demarcation line and listen to a US military briefing, as a couple of North Korean soldiers peer through the windows from their side of the line. Not much less bizarre was the distant spectacle across the border of what must be the largest flag in the world, 31 metres long, on the tallest pole erected in response to a huge South Korean flag.

My sampling of Korea's cultural and scenic attractions was compressed into six days that included lengthy drives totalling some 26 hours through handsome, often mountainous scenery and less appealing townscapes.

The highlight by a wide margin was the southern town of Kyongju, capital first of the Shilla kingdom which ran from 57 BC to AD 668 and then of the whole peninsula to AD 935, a period which saw the finest flowering of Buddhist culture in the peninsula.

Often described as an open-air museum, Kyongju and its environs are studded with temples, pagodas, Buddhist statuary and tombs in the form of giant, grass-covered tumuli. Treasures excavated from several of these mounds are displayed in Kyongju's own National Museum, one of the most beautiful collections of vessels and ornaments I have ever seen.

In a magnificent mountain landscape about 20 minutes' drive away are two of the greatest glories of Buddhist art — Pulguksa Temple and the Buddha of the Sokkuram Grotto. The many adjacent buildings of Pulguksa, set on the hillside among ancient fir trees, form an impressively harmonious whole, while the carving and painting of the eaves and interiors is remarkable, given that the complex was reconstructed in the 1970s.

About a quarter of Korea's population is still Buddhist and worshippers were kneeling and drums were quietly beating in most of the temples I visited. The vast, granite 8th-century Buddha that towers behind protective glass is a great work of art by any standards. Thanks to poor weather and an early start, there were not too many people at this particular spot. But South Korea is a densely inhabited country, and one that puts a high premium on education. Places of historic interest are liable to be thronged with groups of boisterous schoolchildren. This was true of the 126-acre Folk Village not far from Seoul, in which buildings from Korea's past are recreated.

It was sadly also true of Soraksan National Park in the northeast which, with its mountains and waterfalls, is said to be the most beautiful of the country's many such areas. My guidebook's sardonic warning, "Do not expect a wilderness experience", proved amply justified. Climbing for 20 minutes to near the top of the Piryong Waterfall in a lengthy column was just tolerable. Fighting one's way down steep steps past a human wave of ascending youths, each of whose motto seemed to be "me first", was actively unpleasant. Korea's fine beaches, by contrast, seemed eerily empty.

There is much that is beautiful in Korea. A lot of the landscape is magnificent, the Buddhist legacy is rich and wonderful, the food can be delicious and the people are open and friendly on a one-to-one basis. But by European standards there are an awful lot of them around and it takes time to adjust.

ROGER BERTHOUD

KOREA FACT FILE

- The author travelled with the Korea National Tourism Organisation (0171-409 2100).
- Getting there: KLM (0990-750 9000) has direct flights to Seoul from Amsterdam. Fares, including connecting flights from the UK, start at £550.
- Cities are well connected by air, bus and train. Return fares to Kyongju from Seoul are £40 by train or plane.
- Tour operators include: Jasmin Tours (01628 531121); Far East Gateways (0161-945 4321); Silk Steps (0117-940 2800).
- When to go: April-June or October-November. July and August tend to be wet and humid. Winter is fine but cold.
- Visas: Not needed by British subjects staying less than 90 days.
- Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Korea*, by Robert Storey and Geoff Crowther (Lonely Planet, £8.95). *Culture Shock — Korea*, by Sonja Vegdahl Hur and Ben Seunghwa Hur (Kuperard, £7.95). *Flavour of Korea*, by Mark and Tim Millon (André Deutsch, £9.99).

Watch the silent tea ceremony

You have to admire a city that builds its first new landmark in bright pink. You either love or hate the Oriental Pearl television tower on the east bank of the Huangpu River. All the Shanghainese I asked loved it and it is definitely going to be one of the most recognisable landmarks of Asia.

It faces the older landmark, the Bund. Stand on that arc of former foreign banks, trading houses, consulates and custom offices and you can watch Hong Kong-style mirrored office buildings being hurled up to create Lujiazui, the newly designated financial area. The guidebooks are apologetic, acknowledging that the city is changing so fast that by the time the traveller arrives the information is already wrong: the building has gone, the restaurant has shut and the action has moved elsewhere.

The pleasure of Shanghai at present is to pick your way between the coming styles and those left by history. The former Astor House Hotel, for example, has high ceilings and polished wooden floors. Mingling in the lobby are backpacking tourists and young Shanghainese wearing red waistcoats with numbers on their backs — they are stock traders. And the stock exchange of Shanghai is at present located under gleaming old chandeliers in the former ballroom of the hotel.

Nanjing Lu, a shopping street famous throughout China, has a Pepsi sign on every lamppost and Cindy Crawford *et al* on enormous hoardings.

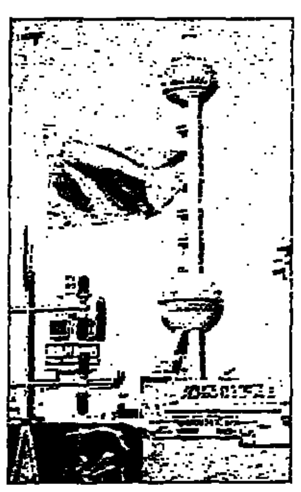
Wander amid the back streets and tat in the Mandarin Bazaar, situated in the old Chinese city, and sample the dumplings before strolling through the Yu Yuan gardens.

At the Huxinting mid-lake teahouse, across the zigzag bridge of nine turnings, wait until six in the evening and then make your way to the upstairs section of the teahouse where a three-man orchestra wearing dark blue mandarin robes begin to play. Chinese classical music drifts across the dark wooden chamber as dusk falls. Open a window to allow the essential Shanghai sound effect of mournful ships' horns, blaring once to indicate a turn to starboard, twice to port, three times for reverse, to drift in from the Huangpu.

Order the tea of your choice with steamed peanuts, bean curd and glutinous rice snacks. Try to get the menu that quotes 25 yuan, rather than the one that charges 44 for tea-only. (There is a long tradition of charging foreigners double in teahouses. In earlier days it was done by giving out green cups which were charged at twice the rate of white cups. Signs proclaimed: "Everybody wearing foreign clothes pays double".)

Watch the waddling babies, the old men doing their stretching exercises on the bridge, allow your cup to be refilled and wait until 6.30pm when silent girls wearing cheongsams perform a small tea ceremony to an audience of three schmoozing Chinese couples. The orchestra performs and the tea ceremony takes place every night but only one of four guidebooks mentioned it.

Another corner of Shanghai that is little visited by foreigners is the Dashiejie. The Great World Entertainment Centre is now a Youth Palace. In the 1930s it was the property of a gangster named Pockmark Huang, with gambling dens, dance halls, massage parlours and brothels.


Shanghai is a mixture of the old and new

Nowadays it is all closed by 9pm — decadence finishes early in Shanghai — but in the early evening families, Chinese tourists and young office workers come to eat snacks, ride dodgem cars, listen to comedy, watch old movies and acrobatics. These are stunning displays on the open-air stage, and are straight acrobatics rather than the polished performances dished up to visitors in the two theatres.

KATE WEIDMANN

- *Regent Holidays (01179 211711) has a week's B&B in Shanghai from £734, including flights from Heathrow with Air China via Peking, staying at the Hotel Magnolia on Nanjing Road.*
- *The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends:* Odyssey Illustrated Guide *(Odyssey, £9.95),* Life and Death in Shanghai, *by Nien Cheng (Flamingo, £7.99).*

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 23

PRUNT
(c) A piece of ornamental glass, frequently in the form of a blackberry, attached or laid onto a body of glass, as, for example, a vase. *Academy*, 1907: "The remarkable series of vessels from Anglo-Saxon graves of which the prunted vessels appear to be the earliest."

QUISQUILLIOUS
(c) Of the nature of rubbish or refuse. "Besides garden insects and worms, the jay's diet is sufficiently quisquillious." Bentham, 1802-12: "The science is overloaded by the quisquillious matter they rake together."

QUILLON
(a) One or other of the two arms forming the crossguard of a sword. Mainly in heraldic use. R. F. Burton, *The Book of the Sword*, 1884: "The quillon may be either straight, that is at right angles, or curved." R. S. Ferguson, *Chuters of Carlisle*: "His sword, which has plain straight quillons, hangs at his side."

QUIPU
(c) A device of the ancient Peruvians and others for recording events, keeping accounts, sending messages, etc. It consisted of cords and threads of various colours, knotted in various ways. 1704: "They have their quipues which is a sort of strings of different bigness, in which they make knots of several colours by which they remember, when they go to confession, these quipues serve to remember their sins."

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Italy: The Tuscan hills are a great place for food, wine and getting fit – but take a good pair of shoes . . .

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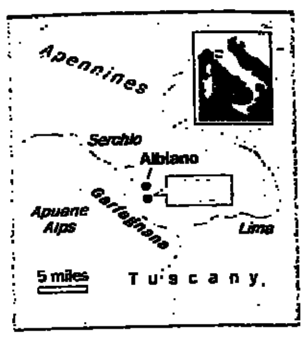

What do I remember best? Wild flowers in a Coca-Cola bottle at a tiny shrine for the Virgin, beside a mountain path; trees hung with cherries and red geraniums in window boxes; an aching bottom from riding a mountain bike too fast down a long track newly-surfaced with small limestone boulders; the Gothic windows in the apse of the cathedral at Barga, glazed with thin sheets of coloured marble; fireflies lighting up a hillside like Harrods at Christmas; and fields of long-stemmed wheat, each one, said a cynic, waiting for its cheque from Brussels.

We stayed between the Apuane Alps and a spur of the Apennines. "Chiantishire" is far to the south and, when English is spoken in the Garfagnana in northern Tuscany, it may well be with a Scottish accent. In the depression at the end of the last century many people emigrated to Scotland. Many have come back. The apparently Italian manager of the Villa Libano hotel in Barga, where we ate on our first night, had played rugby for Scotland under-16s.

The base is in an old farm a few kilometres from Barga. The stone outbuildings have been converted into comfortable bedrooms. No group is bigger than 14 and there are always two guides for the walking or biking. With one guide at the front and the other at the back, everyone can go at his or her own speed.

Northern Tuscany can provide some rugged walking, but nothing beyond the ability of the reasonably fit and well shod. Biking can be more demanding, particularly if the last time you cycled was a decade or three ago. But old skills reassert themselves, although mountain-bike gears, which make those on a four-wheel-drive truck seem unsophisticated, can take a morning to get used to. Muscles, unused and forgotten, can complain for days.

I prefer to walk. In early June the countryside was still full of wild flowers. Valerian grew out of dry stone walls, there were showers of dog roses in hedgerows, blood-red poppies, wild lupins, broom and, in the mountain meadows, tiny orchids and pinks. We walked up through chestnut forest, then through beech to the meadows above the tree line. Like many Italian hills, the Pania di Corfino has a cross on its highest point. We sat around it and looked out over the Serchio valley to the distant Apuane Alps.

The limestone tops of the Apuanes are almost bald. The white in many north-facing gulleys was snow, even in June, but the largest expanse of white was a marble quarry. The stone is cut into 20-ton blocks, each priced at about £20,000, and today almost all of it goes to the Middle East. Michelangelo got the marble for his statue of David from the Apuanes, and it stands in the Galleria dell'Accademia in nearby Florence.

TONY STONE

The long and winding roads of northern Tuscany can provide some rugged walking. Biking can be more demanding, particularly if the last time you cycled was a decade ago

The Apennines, on the northeast side of the Serchia, are older, softer and more forested. Reafforestation has been going on for decades. Later in the year, guides will keep much of the walking within the tree line, but in June the sun was hot but far from unbearable. In February and March they will be leading snow-shoe walks along the high ridges. On a summer day it was difficult to imagine.

I go on walking holidays determined to lose weight. Exercise puts an edge on appetite, food is good, drink plentiful, and I end up telling myself that muscle weighs more than fat, as an unconvincing explanation of weight added, not lost. We ate simply but well. A typical picnic lunch was potato bread, salami, cheese, quiche, porcetta, prosciutto, tomatoes and fruit. Dinner was usually antipasto, soup, pasta, a meat dish, salad and a pudding.

With one notable exception, the Tuscan white wines we drank were good and so were the reds. One red was memorable. We drank it on the terrace of a small restaurant in Albiano. The label on the bottle was stuck on with tape and read "Vino delle Colline di Albiano" (wine of the Albiano hill), a modest enough bush. It was a rich blackcurrant colour and had a thick, earthy taste. We sat on the terrace, with antipasto and crostini, and the old bottle went to and from the barrel from which it was filled.

The awe-inspiringly bad white wine was made almost acceptable by the setting in which it was drunk. And, to be truthful, we got through quite a lot of it. We were eating at a table outside a farmhouse. The sun had gone down, fireflies glittered and, here and there, a glow-worm switched itself on or off to announce its availability to any other interested glow-worm. Dinner was a huge, filling farm affair. The wine was thick, acrid and smelt of apples.

Every hill in Tuscany has its own town, or village, or hamlet "which, hid by beech and pine, like an eagle's nest, lies on the crest of purple Apennine", as Macaulay wrote. The town of Barga is bigger than most, partly walled and best entered through the Porta Reale, or Mancianella. From the old gate steep little streets, hardly altered in centuries, climb up to the cathedral set on a small plateau at the top. It commands not just Barga as it tumbles downhill, a jumble of red-tiled roofs, but the whole Serchio valley, and the far mountains.

The cathedral has an early 13th-century pulpit, which is a masterpiece of carving, in near-perfect condition. The 13th-century Gothic apse should be seen, as I saw it, with its great doors open, the sun going down, and shadows beginning to darken the Apuane Alps across the valley. Of all my memories, perhaps that will last the longest.

DAVID WHITAKER

FACT FILE

- Exodus (0181-675 5550) offers a selection of itineraries in Tuscany.
- The eight-day Garfagnana walking holiday starts at £495, including flights, transfers, accommodation and guides. A local payment covers food.
- The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Walking and Eating in Tuscany and Umbria*, by James Lasdun (Penguin, £8.99); *The Tuscan Year*, by Elizabeth Romer (Phoenix, £6.99).

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Napoleon's pocket empire

Our first view of Elba from the ferry was of a green, volcanic rock looking rather like the scaly profile of a lizard. It was encircled by craggy inlets, coves and sandy bays, many of them deserted, and inland were mountains covered by centuries-old forests and small hill towns.

We were on a week's guided tour of Elba and Tuscany, chauffeured by our Italian driver Sandro in a cosy minibus. Miranda, our English guide, who studied furniture restoration in Florence, peppered her commentary with quotes from the Italian travels of poets and authors such as Shelley and D.H. Lawrence.

On a walk along a coastal path we discovered why the Greeks called Elba *Aethalia* — "always flowering". The soil is rich in minerals which produce hydrangeas in glorious colours and the hillsides are alive with wild cyclamen, sweet-smelling herbs, prickly pears and yellow broom.

Three thousand years ago on the island, things were far from peaceful and quiet. Elba was important to armies and empires. Its iron ore gave the Etruscans their great power in Italy. The Romans quarried granite at Seccheto for the columns of the Pantheon, each 14½ft in circumference and 41ft high. One carved specimen still lies in the hills, rejected by a Roman clerk of works as unsuitable. The Romans and Greeks also used iron ore from Elba for their swords. St Paul preached on Elba and the Pope gave the island to the Republic of Pisa in the 11th century.

In 1802, the island was annexed to France and in 1814 made a principality and the exiled Napoleon its sovereign. He landed on May 4, aged 44, as ruler of a place half the size of the Isle of Wight.

The emperor inspected the island on horseback and turned mule tracks into much of the road system that Elba has today. He ordered wells and drains to be dug and encouraged the growing of vegetables. He improved the wheat crop, planted vines, imported chestnut and olive trees from Corsica, planted mulberry trees from Tuscany along the roadsides and expanded the fishing industry.

For his palace, Napoleon chose the Villa dei Mulini on the site of two windmills, high up in the old part of Portoferraio, and turned it into the Palazzetto dei Mulini. Visitors can see his grand canopied bed and a small version of the famous painting of the emperor on a white charger. The most striking exhibit is a bust of Napoleon carved in marble.

Paola, Napoleon's sister, came to live with him and acted as his hostess at formal occasions. The Villa San Martino, a simple farmhouse in a green valley four miles from hot and smelly Portoferraio, was bought as a summer residence.

To help him raise the money, his sister sold some of her jewels. After his death all the furniture in the house was auctioned to pay off family debts. It is now a museum and houses an exhibition of Napoleonic prints. Today, the only thing Napoleon would recognise is Canova's nude statue of Princess Paola and a 200-year-old olive tree at the entrance to the house.

On a Sunday morning we climbed 800ft up a cobbled pathway to the mountain sanctuary of the Madonna Del Monte, on the slopes of Monte Giove above Marciana, where Napoleon is said to have sat hour after hour admiring the view of his native Corsica.

When his Austrian wife, the Empress Marie Louise, and his son were prevented from joining him, Napoleon became restless and plotted his escape. On February 16, 1815, while his watchdog, the English commissioner Sir Neil Campbell, was in Florence, Napoleon ordered the brig *Inconstant* to be painted like an English warship and prepared for sea. On February 25, Paola announced that she was planning a grand ball. The next day Napoleon, along with 500 men, secretly fled the island. His last message to the Elbans was: "I leave you peace. I leave you prosperity. I leave you a clean, fair city. I leave you my roads and trees for which your children at least will thank me."

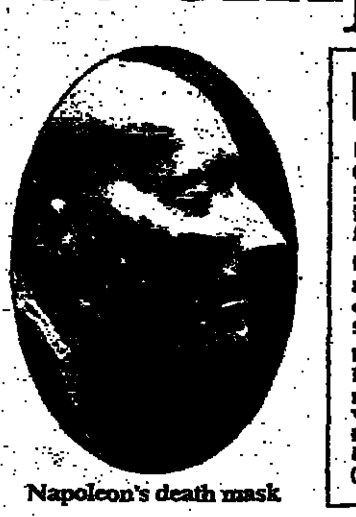
We said goodbye to Elba, too, crossing to the mainland at Piombino and headed for the spa town of Montecatini Terme, and the grand Hotel Croce di Malta, which served the finest food and was to be our base while we embarked on a three-day mini-version of the grand tour.

We took the winding mountain road to Volterra, once an Etruscan city important for mining alabaster, visited the magnificent stone towers at San Gimignano and pored over the Roman amphitheatre at Fiesole.

In Florence an old Italian guide took us on a tour of churches and museums off the tourist trail and even in the much-visited Medici Chapel she showed us a treasure that many sightseers never see.

After whispering to a curator, she led us to a side room where a security guard lifted a trap door in the floor. On the walls of the crypt below we were privileged to see some of Michelangelo's original sketches for his masterpieces that grace Florence. Napoleon's "tomb" had been intriguing: this was breathtaking.

RONALD GRIBBLE



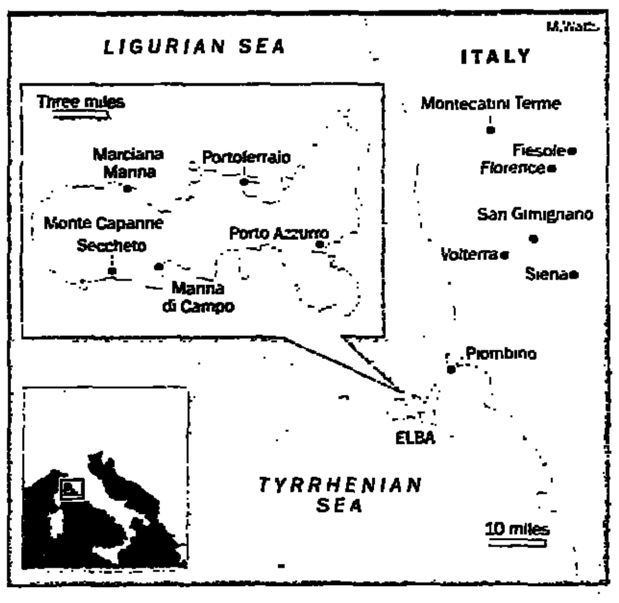
Napoleon's death mask

FACT FILE

- The author travelled with Crystal Holidays (0181-390 5554), which offers a week in a three-star hotel on Elba from £432 in September.
- Tours of Tuscany cost about £700 a week. The company can also arrange self-drive holidays.
- Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Napoleon*, by Vincent Cronin (Fontana, £9.99). *Tuscany and Umbria Rough Guide* (£10.99).

AKG PHOTO

An 1830 watercolour depicting Napoleon in 1815 as he prepares to escape from the island of Elba aboard the *Inconstant* and return to France



Hallelujah for the Emilian Way

Nestling beside the River Po, Piacenza is the start of the Emilian Way, laid out by a Roman consul two centuries before the birth of Christ. This Roman road runs straight as a billiard cue for 36 kilometres to Fidenza, where Giovanni Guareschi set his tales of the priest Don Camillo.

Via Emilia runs southeast to Parma. Imposing, though sometimes tumbledown, farms flank the roadside. At Parma the Via Emilia slices through Piazza Garibaldi — once the Roman forum. My next stop, Reggio nell'Emilia, was unlovely, unlike Modena after it. Via Emilia cuts straight through Modena, passing the apse of its stupendous cathedral where the belfry leans decidedly out from the perpendicular.

The cathedral was packed for Mass. As it ended, the choir sang Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* in Italian and the bishop walked through the crowd scattering blessings.

Outside, parents photographed their children as they sat on the marble lions supporting the cathedral doorway. On the right a wedding was taking place in the 17th-century Palazzo Comunale, with its statue of the Madonna under the clock tower and its fanciful weather vane.

Bologna, one of Italy's gastronomic and fashion centres, is a city of elegant arcaded streets. Tagliatelle was invented here in 1847 for the marriage of Lucrezia Borgia and the Duke of Ferrara. Eating in the Grand Hotel Baglioni, I naturally began with tagliatelle, the succulence of which was matched by the frescoes of the hotel restaurant, which depict the four seasons and the fall of Icarus. Visiting the downstairs toilets I discovered a Roman road running through them.

Leaving Bologna I reached the spa of Castel San Pietro in time for the Monday market, which stretches stretch from its battlemented medieval castle along the arcaded main street. I bought slices of Parma ham and chunks of Parmesan cheese and then drove on to Imola, which the Via Emilia ruthlessly bisects.

Imola, a higgledy-piggledy spot, has useful notices giving the dates of its historic buildings. A sadder notice in the central square says that on April 29, 1944, two partisans, Livia Venturini and Rosa Zanotti, were shot by the Nazis.

Six kilometres later I passed the Castel Bolognese, with a few remains of its medieval walls and the sole remaining tower of a castle which Cesare Borgia demolished in 1501. Cherry trees and vineyards flank the route, with pink rose trees at the end of the rows of vines. Turning off the Via Emilia into Faenza, I was delighted to find a park with picnic tables and a little lake.

As its name implies, Faenza is renowned for its porcelain (or faience), so my wife bought a superb plate, and we left for Forli. The city retains only a triumphal gate and a 15th-century bastion but its immense cathedral of Santa Croce demonstrates what 19th-century architects could achieve — a huge portico on Corinthian columns and, inside, monumental pillars supporting the roof.

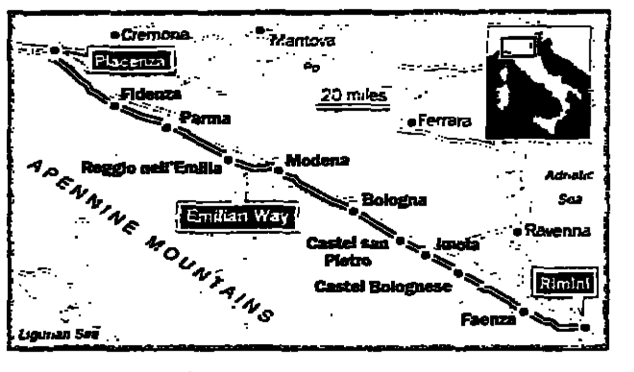
Then, by way of Cesena, I drove along Via Emilia to reach Rimini, Italy's finest Adriatic seaside resort.

Here the Emilian Way passes through the Arco di August, the oldest surviving Roman arch in Italy.

The boss of the Rimini tourist board said that, in his youth, a Roman stone marked the end of the Emilian Way where it met the Flaminian Way (which runs from Rimini to Rome). This stone was destroyed by the RAF in the Second World War.

Signor Donati said: "That was a long time ago and all is forgotten. Rimini lives off tourism and we particularly welcome the British."

JAMES BENTLEY



FACT FILE

- Flights with Alitalia (0171-602 7111) to Bologna start at £215 from Gatwick. Italian Escapades (0181-748 2661) has three nights' B&B in Bologna from £271 per person, including flights.
- Accommodation: In Piacenza, the Nazionale (0039 523 712000) and Milano (0039 523 336843) both charge £55 a double room and breakfast. At Parma, the Grand Hotel Baglioni (0039 521 292929) costs £118 a double. In Bologna, the Grand Hotel Baglioni (00 3951 225445) charges £162-£205 for a double room and breakfast. At Rimini, the Hotel Luxor (00 39541 390990) and Hotel Levenate (00 39541 392554) both charge £22-£43 full board.
- Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Italian Journeys*, by Jonathan Keates (Picador, £6.99).

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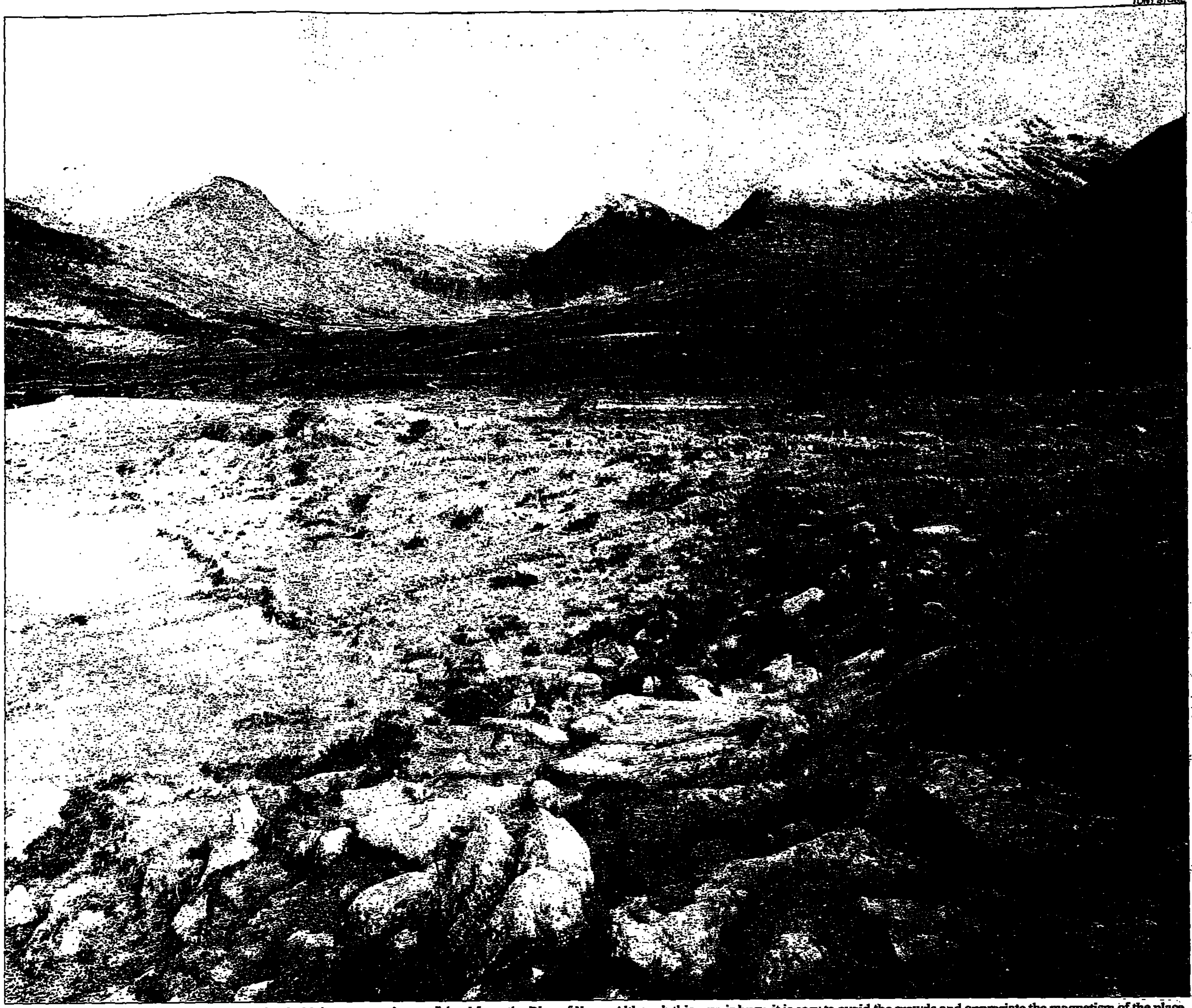
Ireland: Seduced by the dramatic coastline and wild peaks of Co Kerry, and pampered in a gourmet hideaway

TONY STONE



Dream scene: Macgillycuddy's Reeks are Ireland's highest mountains, set inland from the Ring of Kerry. Although this area is busy, it is easy to avoid the crowds and appreciate the magnetism of the place

Running rings around Kerry

"There's to be a heat wave tomorrow," announced the Irishman standing *next to me at the bar of the* Blue Bull in Sneem, Co Kerry. "*It's starting at three o'clock,* and we've been told to stay inside." He did not elaborate on this instruction, but took a swig of his Guinness with the gloomy satisfaction of one who thrives on apocalyptic visions.

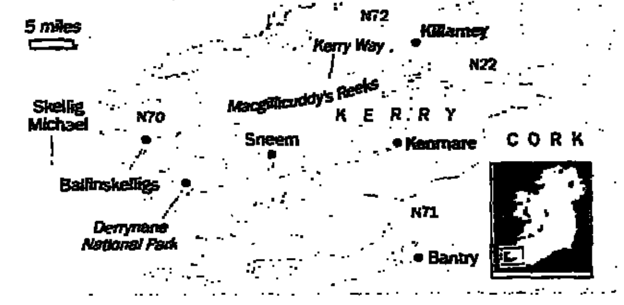
Happily for us, he got the weather right but the timing completely wrong: we awoke next morning to cloudless skies and balmy air spiked with warm pine, clover, pockets of intense honeysuckle and rose. The hedgerows are bursting with fuchsias and dog roses. A lark ascends. We do not propose to stay inside.

An Irish heat wave sounds such a contradiction in terms that to stumble on one bestows a sense of privilege, particularly if you are in the Ring of *Kerry at the time*. This is the most visited corner of Ireland, *and the 110-mile circuit crawls* with foreign numberplates, tourist coaches and overheated Germans on pushbikes. But slip away up a side road, and it is easy to feel the magnetism of the place: a dramatic coastline and the wild beauty of the lakes and peaks inland, including Ireland's highest mountains, Macgillycuddy's Reeks.

If you then douse the lot in *freakish Mediterranean sun*shine, after a glass or two of *Beamish in contemplation of* Kerry's dromedary profile *against the azure skies of early* evening, you begin to wonder whether you have inadvertently died and gone to heaven.

There is a certain quirky humour in the Ring of Kerry's uncompromising attitude to its lifeblood tourist trade. The N20 road, which circumnavigates it, is a devilish twister of a single carriageway, clearly designed to disconcert foreign motorists and coach drivers. Its cratered surface ensures that bikers and cyclists are also in for a few surprises along the way.

Yet many visitors treat the area as a *whistle*-stop tour to be done from the county town of Killarney. They slog round it in a day, hardly leaving their vehicles except to wield the camcorder at each viewpoint car park. They miss a great deal – not least the sense of *peace and grand isolation once* the crowds are gone.



To take things at a more leisurely pace, we rented a farmhouse outside the village of Sneem for a week. It proved to be a warm, reasonably functional monument to Catholicism and carpet kitsch: I counted at least 19 icons around the place, including a *particularly fetching Virgin*-in-a-snowstorm dome. We *looked on it as a refreshing* break from the dull tastefulness of the *Ikea-ridden homes* that we had left behind in the real world.

With two toddlers and an expectant mother in the party, all-day hikes were clearly off the agenda (though there is wonderful walking to be done, including the long-distance Kerry Way which circles the peninsula). Luckily, this is *where the heat wave really* came into its own, for we spent several days on Derrynane's *child-friendly beach, building* sand elephants and swimming *in water so warm and shel*tered that getting in elicited barely a whimper.

Be warned, however: Irish heat waves are not reliable. There is no guarantee that the clouds that burn off by mid-*morning over your farmhouse* are not simply massing sulkily *over your proposed picnic spot* a few miles down the coast. But the *skies generally* cleared, sooner or later. And on the days they did not, or when the pull of another session with the sand menagerie began to wane, there were other options.

Probably the best way to explore the peninsula and escape the crowds is to hire a bike. Cycling on the back *roads to Kenmare, a pretty* little town 20 miles away, proved to be a memorable *experience, in part because of* the delightful old lady in beads *and a flowery frock who runs* Sneem's bicycle shop and who, I suspect, would not know a pair of Lycra cycle shorts from a Versace evening dress.

She had no interest in taking a deposit on the bicycle itself, but was worried about what might happen if she lent me a *lock. "Folk are always losing* the keys," she explained. That *day's bike rent was the best £5* I have spent in years.

Another excellent trip (minus toddlers, thankfully) was out to the Skellig islands from Ballinskelligs, an hour away by fishing launch. Little Skellig is a jagged arch of volcanic rock, thickly encrusted with gannets; the boats will go quite close in but there is no landing there.

Skellig Michael, however, though it looks equally inhospitable from a distance, turns out to have a harbour of sorts. Numerous small launches buzz around the island like insects, waiting for their passengers who are dropped off to follow the steep stone pathway up to a 1,000-year-old monastery at the summit of the rock. *It is an awesome, eerie place*: its atmosphere undisrupted by the crowds of sightseers clambering in and out of the drystone beehive cells.

A knowledgeable archaeologist-guide painted a graphic picture of life for the handful of monks who lived *there, with no fuel on the* island, no water except the rainwater they collected in two tanks, and no food but birds and fish. (Luckily we had taken sandwiches, because absolutely nothing has changed in that respect: there are not even toilet facilities.)

The monks have long since left, but Skellig Michael is still *home to a large colony of* puffins, which nest in the *rocks alongside the path. They* look like small, unco-*ordinated businessmen, and* their laughable attempts to take off and land amount to a sort of birdie floor-show on the long haul up to the monastery.

Back on the mainland, the village of Sneem seems on the face of it to have sold its soul to tourism: every other shop is an eaterie or souvenir emporium, and the air is thick with unfamiliar languages. Despite that, however, it is unquestionably charming, its two greens linked by an adamantly single-track bridge and surrounded by brilliantly col-*oured houses*. There is no messing about with namby-pamby pastel: expect a hard-hitting blood-red wash, preferably next door to mustard with mauve guttering. The effect is Toy Town but irresistible. And I don't think *it is laid on just* for the tourists.

Faith Glasgow

FACT FILE

- The author rented her farmhouse through Shamrock Cottages (01823 660126). Another company which also specialises in renting Irish property is Welcome Irish Holidays (01756 702214). The bigger properties are in great demand, especially during school holidays, and early booking is essential. The author's farmhouse slept six to seven plus cot, and cost £345 for a week in July, exclusive of fuel and linen: the price varies according to season from £193 to £388.
- Shamrock can offer a price inclusive of the car ferry. In this case, cottage and ferry (Fishguard-Rosslare, three and a half hours) was £501.
- *Sailing from* Swansea to Cork (12 hours) cuts down *the driving* across Ireland.
- Flights from Stansted to Cork with Ryanair (0541 569569) cost £79.
- A hired car (all leading firms are based at the airport) is the easiest way of getting from Cork to Kerry, and pretty much a necessity there unless you plan to explore exclusively by foot/cycle.
- As a touring base, Kenmare makes a pleasant alternative to touristy Killarney. The Purple Heather Bistro on Henry Street has a reputation for excellent food: book in advance, no matter what time of year. Kenmare's tourist office is in The Square (00 353 64 41233).
- *Trips to the Skellig* Islands are run through the *season by numerous small* enterprises, all of whom charge a flat IR£20 per person. We went from Ballinskelligs with Joe Roddy.
- Cycling the Ring of Kerry takes three days; *expect to use all your gears.* In Sneem, Burns Bike Hire *(00 353 64 45140) charges* IR£5 a day or IR£30 a week. *In Kenmare, try* Finnegan's at the Failte Hostel (00 353 64 41083).

Dinner with the Michelin man

FOR VISITORS to southwestern Ireland with a passion for scenery and a secret desire for luxury, the Sheen Falls Lodge is a remarkable spot, *Tim Rice writes*. It is a stately pile painted a distinctive mustard yellow – as are a number of buildings in this area.

The hotel, part of the grand Relais & Châteaux group, has a splendid position. Waterfalls cascade past it into Kenmare Bay and the views are lovely in all directions.

The bedrooms are hugely comfortable *and decorated in relaxing neutrals, like* most of the interior. The Cascade *Restaurant was awarded a Michelin star* in 1992 and the chef, Fergus Moore, runs cooking courses.

There are weekends for walking, salmon fishing, wine tasting, romance (February 14) and more (average price £250 per person for two nights half board *and activities). Staff are delightfully* unstuffy, despite the elegant surroundings. If your pocket is deep, this is worth a visit in itself with endless excursion possibilities, including Kenmare up the road. For those in search of how the other half of Ireland lives, it's worth splashing out to stay in a place like this before you return to reality.

AUTUMN BREAKS at Sheen Falls Lodge, Kenmare, Co Kerry (00 353 64 41600) start at £219 per person sharing a double room, including two nights' accommodation with breakfast and one *dinner in the hotel's Michelin-star restau*rant, La Cascade.

Special interest weekends take place during October and November, with subjects including food and wine, bridge, golf, health and beauty, and an outdoor activity break including riding, hill walking and clay pigeon shooting.

Ryan Air (0541 569569) has daily flights from London (Stansted) to Kerry. Prices start at £79 return.

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صفحة ١ من الاصل

AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Cruising Lake Nasser

THOSE hoping to cruise the Nile in December and January, when the Esna Lock is likely to be closed for maintenance, might prefer to avoid the disruption and inconvenience this causes by opting for a cruise on Lake Nasser instead.

Highlight of the 300-mile long "Nubian Sea", created by the building of the Aswan Dam, is of course Rameses II's great temple of Abu Simbel, but there are other ancient monuments to visit ashore. However, Bales Tours (01306 885991) reckons four days afloat on Lake Nasser is enough as there are no villages along the banks. It combines the cruise on the 1920s-style steamship *Kasr Ibrim* with four days in Aswan, from £699 to £1,225.

■ **WHERE can you find outstanding Trappist beer? How can you avoid that wretched local brew served with a straw? *Michael Jackson's World Beer Hunter* CD-Rom will tell you. Available in September from BMG Interactive (0171-384 7500) for £29.99, it is essential viewing for those planning a thirst-quenching trip abroad. The author describes more than 400 pubs and breweries worldwide and a selection of beer-tasting holidays, as well as a personal list of beers he would want if stranded on a desert island.**

City breaks

MIDDLE EAST specialist Jasmin Tours (0181-675 8886) is offering four-night breaks off the usual tourist trail from mid-September. A long weekend in Muscat (now becoming more sympathetic to tourism — alcohol and bikinis are allowed in hotels, though not beyond) costs £690.

On a four-night trip to Beirut (£488), you can easily visit both Byblos, the world's longest-inhabited city, and the Roman *folie-de-grandeur* site at Baalbek. A trip to Alexandria, in Egypt, where Cleopatra's sunken city is being excavated, costs £488 for four nights. All prices include flights and B&B accommodation.

Last resorts

DESPITE mass tour operators' claims that there are no holidays left for this summer, smaller specialist firms can still come up with some last resorts, says the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO).

French specialist VFB (01242 240340) can organise self-catering holidays in coastal France, including a self-drive week in a two-bedroom flat in Biot, Provence, costing £514 for two people. An extra week costs £414. (Prices cover ferry crossings.)

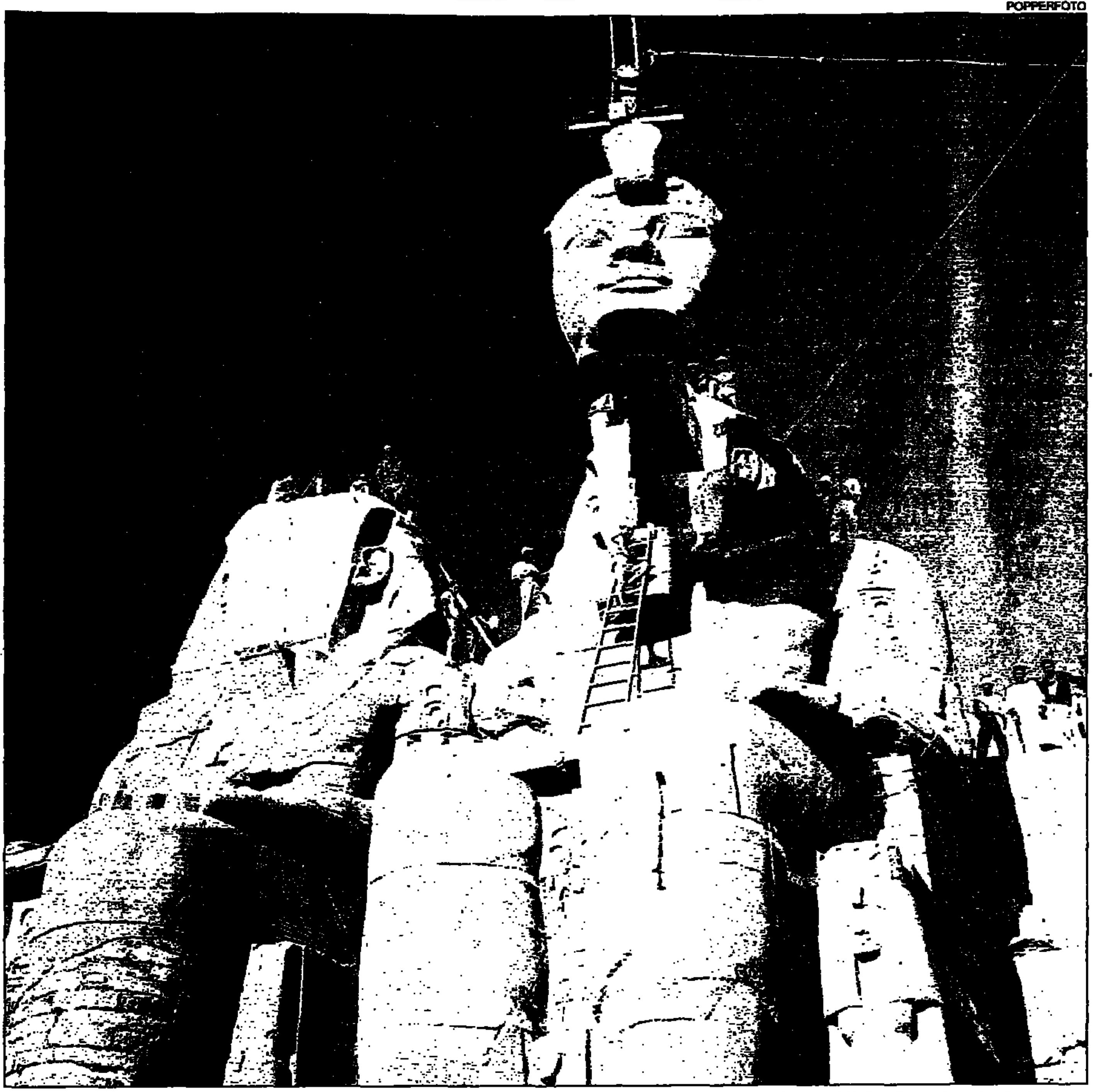
On the lesser-known Greek islands from mid-August, Laskarina (01629 822203) can offer two weeks on tiny Halki for £449, and Sunvil Holidays (0181-568 4499) has studio flats based on Lemnos for £423 for two weeks self-catering.

Magic of Portugal (0181-741 1181) can tuck holidaymakers into the Algarve — a week's B&B at Hotel Garbe in Armacao de Pera costs £649, with the alternative of a week on the bracing Lisbon coast at Estoril for £599.

Panorama Holidays (01273 206531) has spaces in Tunisia on a flight-only basis for £209, or seven nights B&B for £299, as well as in Opatija, a former British favourite in Croatia (£365 half-board for a week with flights).

AITO's *Directory of Real Holidays*, listing 150 independent firms, is free from 0181-607 9080.

■ **IF YOU want to steer clear of the hordes of cruise passengers that often clog up holiday resorts as they flood ashore, take a note of the Top Twenty Ports of Call surveyed by Lloyd's *Cruise International* magazine. It names the US Virgin Islands, Miami, the Bahamas, San Juan, Yucatan, Grand Cayman, St Martin, Jamaica, Barbados and Vancouver as the Top Ten. In the Mediterranean, the Top Ten are Athens/Piraeus, Rhodes, Ephesus, Mykonos, Santorini, Patmos, Crete, Majorca, Barcelona and Genoa.**



POPPERFOTO

Rameses II's temple of Abu Simbel being moved during the building of the Aswan Dam. The temple is a highlight of a cruise of Lake Nasser

Otter survival

YOU can help the otter, an endangered species, by joining one of three projects in Skye, India and Russia run by the International Otter Survival Fund (01471 822487). On Skye, some of the tasks you will be assigned will include researching the otters' diet and the development of their cubs. You are expected to contribute £345 towards costs and your keep.

Save-the-otter volunteers pay £1,175 (which includes flights) for the 12 days in southern India. If you join the Russian project, you will stay with a local family in the Central Forest Biosphere Reserve in the Tver Region, 200 miles west of Moscow. The cost is £825, including all flights.

River rafting

WHITE-WATER raft specialist Adrift (0181-874 4969) is running several trips to Ethiopia's River Omo after the rainy months of September, October and November, when the waters are at their best level for rafting. The trips are graded two to three, which in white-water-speak means reasonably gentle and suitable for those who wish to explore the river without shooting down rapids.

The Upper Omo trip, which costs £1,900 for 15 days, has steep gorges and abundant wildlife. On the Lower Omo trip (£2,220 for 17 days), rafters will meet the Bodi, Mursi and Kwegu people, who are remote, semi-nomadic tribes. An 18-day Omo Exploration trip (£2,430) runs through uncharted waters further down the Omo. The prices include flights, accommodation and most meals, four-wheel drives and hotel stays in Addis Ababa. On average, eight days are spent on the river, camping and rafting.

Restrictions for high street agents

TRAVEL NEWS

HIGH-STREET travel-agency names may disappear following suggestions by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The MMC is investigating whether firms who own tour operations, travel agencies and airlines restrict the choice available for holidaymakers.

In a letter to travel firms outlining "hypothetical proposals", the MMC has suggested that companies such as Thomson and Airtours rename their owned agencies, Lunn Poly and Going Places, to make the commercial connection clear to customers. Other ideas include a ban on linking insurance to holiday discounts, and forcing operators to restrict the number of retail outlets they own. The letter suggests a maximum of 300 shops. Lunn Poly owns 800 and Going Places has 710. The two account for 22 per cent of all agencies.

The travel industry has until September 1 to respond but is fighting its corner. Ian Smith, managing director of Lunn Poly, said: "There is no case to answer."

■ **AS EXPECTED**, family holidays in August are proving hard to find, with a Surrey agency this week saying its cheapest deal is the Canary Islands for £339. But for those prepared to travel outside the school holidays there is still availability in September and October.

Tony Bennett, managing director of Going Places, this week told *Travel Weekly*, the trade paper: "People have realised that if they wait a month they can go on holiday for half the price."

■ **THE STRENGTH** of the pound is benefiting holidaymakers heading abroad but is hitting the market at home. The British Incoming Tour Operators Association is forecasting a drop of 800,000 foreign visitors to the United Kingdom this year, a fall of 3 per cent.

The sharp rise in London hotel rates has exacerbated the situation, with the number of continental European visitors being the most affected. Roger Heape, managing director of British Airways Holidays, said its French and German visitor numbers were down by 30 per cent.

STEVE KEENAN

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TRAVEL CONTINUES ON PAGE 22

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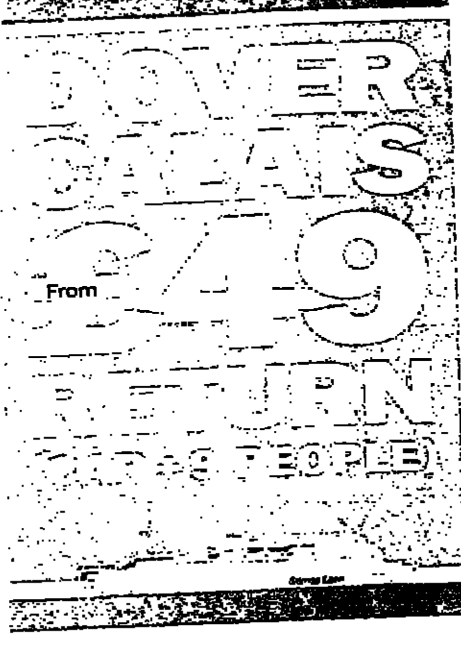

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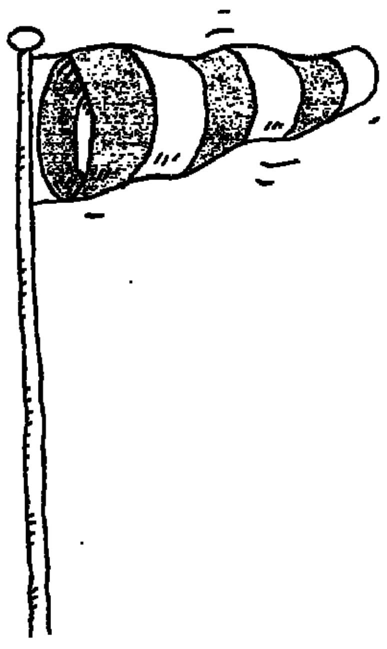

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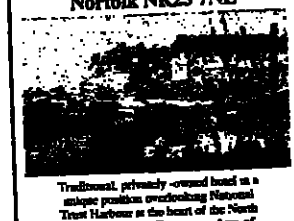

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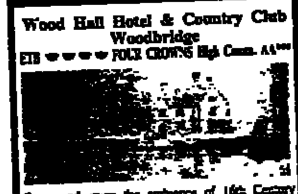

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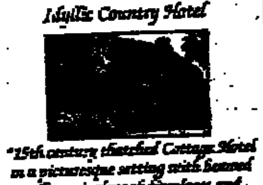

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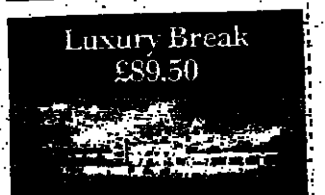

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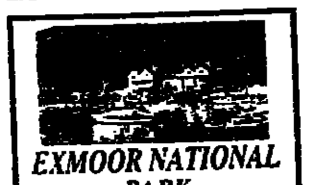

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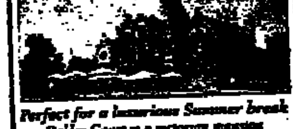

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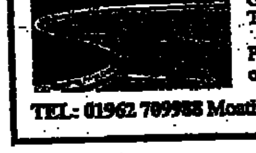

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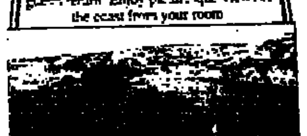

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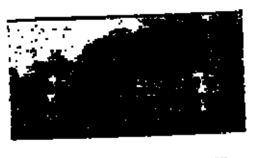

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE first Mind Sports Olympiad will be held in London at the Festival Hall from August 18-24. There will be 39 Mind Sports being played including board games, card games, computer games, mental skills, social games and, of course, chess.

The Olympian ideal was founded by the ancient Greeks and the Mind Sports Olympiad is the logical extension. It is a global competition in which all the contests will be thinking games. The key difference between the Mind Sports Olympiad and the Olympic Games for physical sports is that anyone and everyone can participate in the Mind Sports.

One of the stars of the Mind Sports Olympiad chess section, with its £10,000 prize fund, will be Julian Hodgson, grandmaster and former British champion. He is currently engaged at the Smith & Williamson British Chess Championship in Hove, East Sussex, where he is providing an expert commentary to the games. The notes to this sharp win by Hodgson are based on those in his book, *Attack with Julian Hodgson.*

White: Julian Hodgson; Black: Keith Arkell
Isle of Man 1996
English Opening

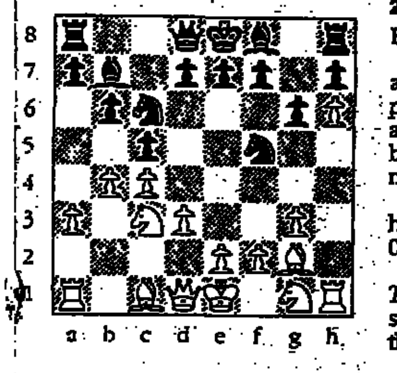
1 c4 c5 2 g3 g6
3 Bg2 Bg7 4 Nc3 Nc6
5 a3 Nh6 6 h4

This allows the white rook to participate in the game at an early stage.

6 ... Nf5 7 h5 b6
8 d3 Bb7 9 h6 Bf8

After 9 ... Be5 10 g4 Nfd4 11 f4 Bb8 12 e3 Ne6 13 b4 is strong for White.

10 b4



White launches an attack on all fronts.

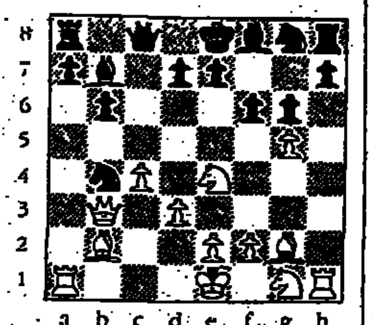
10 ... Qc8 11 Ne4

This is a powerful pawn sacrifice. It is often worth giving up material for the initiative when the opponent's king is stuck in the centre.

11 ... cxb4 12 axb4 Nxb4
13 Bb2 f6 14 g4

More material is invested for the sake of the initiative.

14 ... Nxh6 15 g5 Ng8
16 Qb3



The queen is well placed, on b3 with threats along the a2-g8 diagonal which Black has seriously weakened by playing ... f6.

16 ... d5

This loses. Black had to try 16 ... a5, though 17 gxf6 exf6 18 c5 h5 19 Nh3 still maintains Wwhite's initiative.

17 gxf6 exf6 18 Bxf6

The idea behind this move is that after 18 ... Nxf6 19 Nxf6+ Kf7 20 Nf3 Bg7 21 Ng5+ Kxf6 22 Qc3+ Kg5 23 Qxg7 the black king will not survive long.

18 ... dxc4 19 Qxc4 Bxe4
20 Bxe4 Nc2+ 21 Kf1 Nxa1
22 Bxh8 Black resigns

Black faces heavy material losses.

Apart from Western, Chinese and Japanese chess that will be *played at the Mind Sports Olympiad,* other disciplines will include bridge, backgammon, draughts, memory and IQ.

More information and details of how to enter are available from 0171-703 2828.

In Monday's edition of *The Times* there will be a 16-page special supplement on all aspects of the Mind Sports Olympiad.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

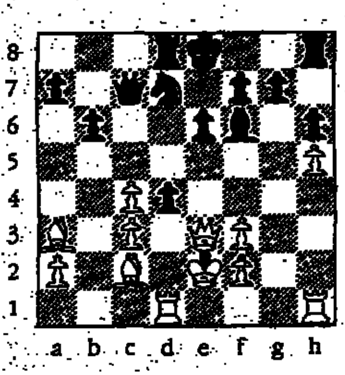
White to play. This position is from the game Rowson - Richardson, Staffordshire 1997.

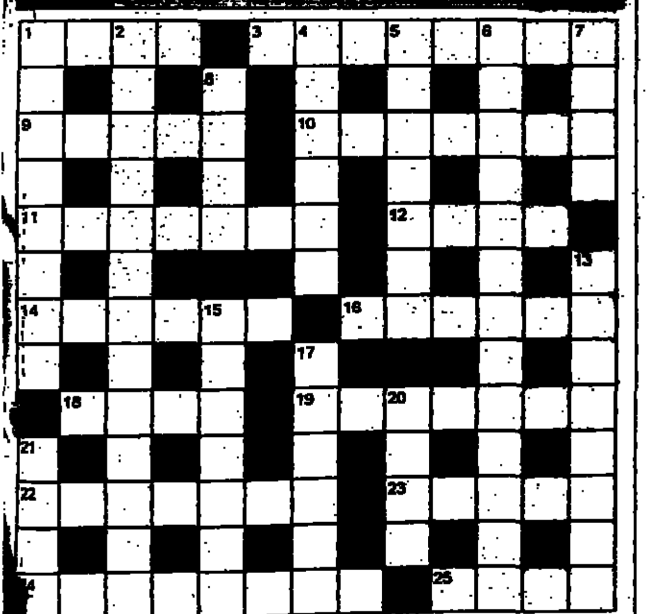
Black's big problem here is that his king is stranded in the centre and unable to castle to safety due to the strong white bishop on a3. How did White make the most of his chances?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times,* 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published in next Saturday's Weekend on the Games page.

Last week's solution: 1 Qxf6+
Last week's winner: K Thomas, North End, Portsmouth.





No 1168

ROSS

Fire; bag (4)
Believing, having faith (8)
Bend (5)
Michael —, Eng. physicist (7)
St Thomas —, Doctor of Church (7)
Bunch of hair (4)
Within (6)
attern of stress (6)
ight (4)
ole number (7)
t (soccer game) (4,3)
ical clique (5)
er Dick (8)
k letter; sounds like
er up of game (4)

DOWN

1 (Philosophy) by Q-and-A (8)
2 Relevant existing conditions (13)
4 Decline; rubbish (6)
5 Damage surface; withdraw (7)
6 Tireless (13)
7 Francisco de —, Sp. painter (4)
8 Seedpod; the poor don't have one (4)
13 Portable rain shield (8)
15 Certificate, charter (7)
17 Steal pettily (6)
20 Pleat; (child's) cakes etc (4)
21 Slant(ed); asymmetrical (4)

ON TO NO 1167

S: 1 Static 5 Cask 8 Bang 9 Nautical 10 Question 12 Settle 14 Enrage 16 Span 18 Assembly 20 Magellan 22 Clay 23 Esteem

2 Traduce 3 Tagus 4 Considerable 5 Clipper 7 Quintessence 13 Tannery 15 Galilee 17 Pearl 19 Motet

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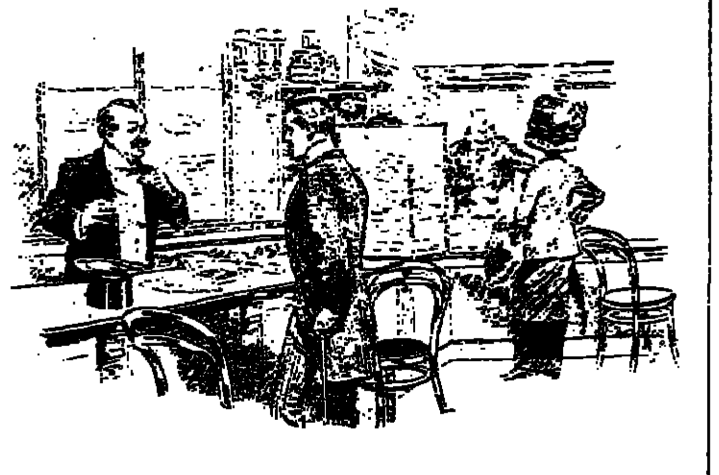
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a *postcard with your name* and address to: Strand Caption 64, Weekend, *The Times,* 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, August 13.



"It's just a pity that you had the 'Lady Lamont at home' cards printed so early"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by B. Thompsom of Middlesbrough

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PRUNT
a. A small boat
b. A young gazelle
c. An ornament

QUISQUILLIOUS
a. Argumentative
b. Exchangeable
c. Rubbishy

QUILLON
a. Part of a sword
b. A writing instrument
c. An Arctic seabird

QUIPU
a. Comic verse
b. A card game
c. Early filofax

Answers on page 17

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE MOST amusing hand of the 1997 European Open Championships occurred in the match between Germany and Sweden.

First, try this problem. You are West with North the dealer at love all. What would you bid on this hand, after the following sequence (your call of Two Spades was natural, despite South having bid the suit. North and South are both aware of this):

♠A K 10 6 3 2 ♥6 2 ♦Q J 6 4 3 ♣-

W	N	E	S
-	1 H	Pass	1 S
2 S	4 S	Pass	Pass
?			

The Swedish player Fredin doubled Four Spades. That was not a success, as the bidding continuation shows:

Dealer North Love all IMPs

	North	
	♠- ♥AKQ103 ♦A1097 ♣KQ76	
♠AK10632 ♥62 ♦QJ643 ♣-	N W E S	♠Q98 ♥J75 ♦K852 ♣J108
	♠J754 ♥984 ♦- ♣A95432	

W	N	E	S
-	1 H	Pass	1 S
2 S	4 S	Pass	Pass
Dble	4 NT	Pass	5 C
Pass	6 C	Pass	7 C
All Pass			

Contract: Seven Clubs by South
Lead: ace of spades

North intended Four Spades as a cuebid showing length in the other three suits. He thought South would realise he could not want to play in spades. I think that is right — if North thought North-South could make ten tricks in spades he would double Two Spades. However, it is the sort of inference easier to draw sitting in the bar than at the table.

But even if North expected South to be on the same wavelength, his jump to Four Spades was still ridiculous — say South had held:

♠Q J 7 5 4 ♥8 4 ♦Q 3 2 ♣10 5 4

Where on earth did North expect to play the hand?

When South passed Four Spades, missing the point I mention above, it was West's turn to be obtuse. I suppose he thought that if South thought Four Spades was to play, then it must be so — a sheep-like piece of analysis which proved very expensive. Had he passed North-South might well have gone seven down — East-West bid and made Four Spades at the other table, when North discarded a diamond on the fourth round of spades.

Over the double North was able to bid 4NT to alert South to his previous misreading of Four Spades (though you could argue that North should pass — after all, in his warped way he has described *his hand). North then reverted to* type with his Six Clubs over Five Clubs — much too ambitious, to put it mildly, for reasons I have already mentioned.

Finally, I like the way South woke up over Six Clubs and realised he had a wonderful hand. Seven Clubs was an easy make.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

THE ARRIVAL in Britain of *Hewlett Packard's dazzling HP 320* LX palmtop computer, running Microsoft Windows CE, hails the dawn of a new age of easy-to-use portable computers. The link to the PC has never been simpler, nor smaller.

The problem with palmtops has always been the difficulty of linking them with home or office PCs. Files could only be transferred between the hardware with unique and costly translation programmes. The process often felt like trying to get round-pin plugs into square-pin sockets. The breakthrough has come largely with the development of Windows CE, a system which is at once familiar and easy to understand.

Windows CE is a pared down version of Windows 95 and NT, so the similarities of the sister systems make for a very short learning curve. It is so logical and straightforward that you cannot help wondering why it has taken so long to develop. In regular Windows you can operate the programme with keyboard shortcuts or a mouse. With Hewlett Packard's palmtop you also have two ways of operating the software — with keyboard shortcuts or, in place of a mouse, by using the stylo (or a *fingernail) on the touch-sensitive screen.*

The screen is extra-wide and it can be backlit, with a green glow, to reduce eye strain. Soon, backlighting will become widespread in most screen-based gadgets, starting, perhaps, with Game Boys and LCD games. Palmtop developers are already working on the next breakthrough: colour monitors for their mini-computers.

The Hewlett Packard 320 LX palmtop has a slender docking station to link it to the mains power (and a charger, if using rechargeable batteries) as well as to the desktop.

The Windows CE approach makes light work of grabbing handfuls of files from a home or office computer — effectively cramming information into your pocket. You can copy Filofaxes, letters in progress or even the latest chapter of the novel which you have been tweaking for the past seven years. Like regular Windows, you can even alter and enlarge the fonts if you wish.

Nor is this portability confined to text documents — in theory you should be able to copy over games files for playing on the move. These might only be parlour games, such as patience and backgammon, or simple computer games, such as Tetris, but it shows the way forward.

Until now it seemed that market-leader Psion had the palmtop business sewn up. For years no one could touch its best-selling 3a and 3c models, but the first pre*tender to the throne* has emerged — and it deserves respect. Nor is Hewlett Packard the only manufacturer with a renewed interest in the territory. Casio is among many competitors working on their own palmtops to run Windows CE. Other versatile software is appearing to run on Windows CE, including handwriting-recognition software, which transforms the touch-sensitive screen plus stylo into a backlit memo-pad and pen: perfect for film-critics who alienate those around them at darkened preview screenings by turning on powerful flashlights each time they need to scribble notes.

I have had withdrawal symptoms since returning the 320 LX to Hewlett Packard. The good news is that we plan to offer some of these palmtops in a competition later this year.

When it comes to star status, Adrian Edmondson must be near the top. For the past few years videos and tours of the *Bottom* TV series have grossed millions of pounds. So you might expect a computer game featuring Mr Ed*mondson to plaster his* involvement all over the packaging — not so Ocean's **Animal**. I'd wager that he was relieved at the omission.

Be a bit of an Animal in the Ocean game based on the Peperami ads

This is a game based on the character devised to advertise Peperami. If you enjoy the television commercials with the screeching and unpleasant character "Animal", then you might like the game. Otherwise, you will doubtless despair. Trailed as "Vegetables, Violence and an angry sausage!", Animal is set in Snackopoplis, where you guide the thin, brown Animal around, helping him to locate and free the kidnapped mayor Pepereinstein.

The action is mostly click-and-point, with some extremely basic first-person-perspective gaming. The two main characters soon grate. Animal runs around in a perpetually angry mode and there is a pompous, plummy-voiced narrator who is heard often but never seen. He sounds testy, like some leftover from 1950s children's radio who would rather be in a pub than in a studio. His tiresome bleatings do a dull title no favours and I'd be surprised if the Animal CD-Rom increases sales of its edible counterpart — if anything sales might dip.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3422: The Plays Of The Bard – IV by Salamanca

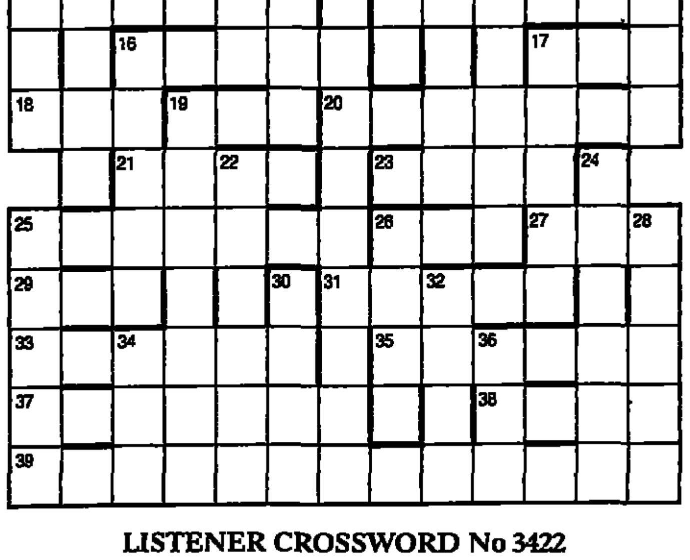
Henry VI, Part 3. The two sides are divided by 5 — the finish of that by 39 of 1Ac. Each clue is really two clues side-by-side in order and not overlapping. On one side certain undefined-as-such answers must be treated in the way indicated above (entered answers including one fictional name); on the other, defined answers must be treated as secondarily clued as 1Ac's later retaliation to 39. The rest are normal.

ACROSS

11/38 Scotch one time contained by this foreign bottle, no time lively
13/37 He's trained to fight battle over rivers nearer centre of trendy old coast
14/35 Establishment where book is, in short, given bright covers, say, with new backing — (Penguin?) easily hiding old price?
15/33 Day one's to note when water-worker goes in on Sunday as member of naval construction group
16/31 Miles connected by lines to data transmitter having educational network leads
17/29 Root in can turned away by a little fellow
18/27 Spiritual sorts are ones filled with love, hence rapturous cries
19/26 American born in Alaska, one male going to the west carrying weight
20/25 Powder got from tree by backward native — getting a little powder's dangerous work given sun flashing in one's eyes
21/23 At some time in the future it will be caught in a square trap put around to get an eel

DOWN

1/28 It's turned to in prayer by one in High Court, see, having to speak against a little smoky chimney
2/24 Male *and* female former graduate read about
3/36 Go past with daring head held up — I take old challenge — I climb the wall!
4/32 Poor finding Eden failing, giving out a weak *laugh — it's all humbug!*
6/30 One way out east took path to north to settle there in good *spirits*
7/22 Head gamekeeper managed small dwelling by river side in valley
8/19 Silvering skin producing odd gray reflective look — a defensive creation — dab it on carefully
9/34 Water's regular arrival here beginning to break into backwater, say, Lincoln's first
10/25 Battered armet displaying hole — assume for argument's sake large hole's round
12/26 Time on King's long journey, short time spent in writing
16/17 Cover with raised shape (nothing in the middle) showing some wacky individuality



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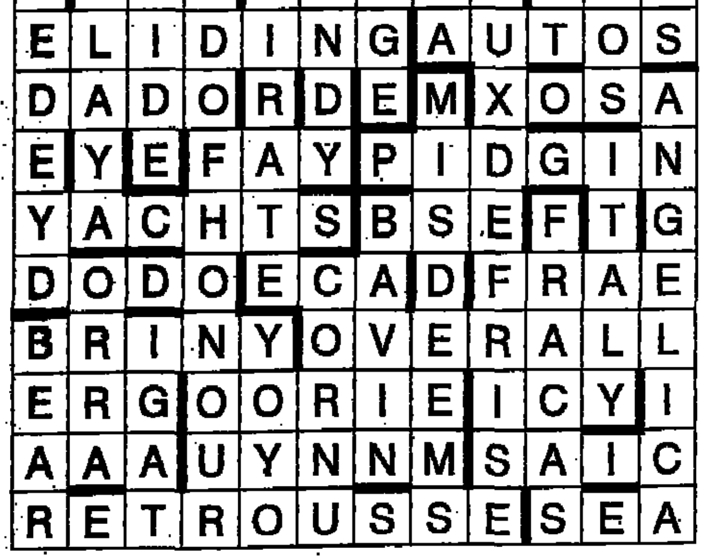
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The *Listener Crossword No 3422, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire* AL3 6HE, by Thursday, August 21.



B	O	O	M	A	D	E	L	E	I	N	E
B	U	N	A	S	C	L	A	V	T	P	T
L	P	S	I	P	A	O	L	A	A	H	A
E	L	I	D	I	N	G	A	U	T	O	S
D	A	D	O	R	D	E	M	X	O	S	A
E	Y	E	F	A	Y	P	I	D	G	I	N
Y	A	C	H	T	S	B	S	E	F	T	G
D	O	D	O	E	C	A	D	F	R	A	E
B	R	I	N	Y	O	V	E	R	A	L	L
E	R	G	O	O	R	I	E	I	C	Y	I
A	A	A	U	Y	N	N	M	S	A	I	C
R	E	T	R	O	U	S	S	E	S	E	A

Solution to No 3419:
Mel, but not Kim by Meursault

(i) Sugar and spice and all things nice, that's what little girls are made of
(ii) *Mrs Beeton*

The unclued lights and Mel, but not Kim, are both girls and sugary concoctions. The letters removed from answers to asterisked clues are C-12, H22, O-11, giving the chemical formula for sugar. Mayson was Mrs Beeton's maiden name; mays = maids, girls; beet = a source of sugar.

The winner is A. Sutherland, *Glasgow.*

The five runners-up are D. Fennell, Dobcross, Greater Manchester; R. Elliott, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear; J. Minter, Telford, Shropshire; D. Flower, Banbury, Oxon; Sal and Sim, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

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